Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-93-129 *8 July 1993*

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Cuba

Castro Meets With Vietnamese Prime Minister

FL0807002293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] On 7 July, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with the visiting high-level Vietnamese delegation, headed by Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the SRV and member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Fidel and Vo Van Kiet held talks at the Council of State building. Tonight, Vo Van Kiet will receive the Jose Marti Order. The Vietnamese delegation conducted an extensive tour of the scientific hub west of Havana and laid a wreath at Jose Marti's monument in Revolution Square.

Presents 'Jose Marti Order'

FL0807023993 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0115 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0115 GMT on 8 July, carried on the program, "This Very Day," recorded coverage of the ceremony in which Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet is presented with the Jose Marti Order at Revolution Palace. The ceremony, attended by Cuban President Fidel Castro, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, Politburo member Abel Prieto, and others, lasts 32 minutes. The band plays a fanfare. The color guard brings forth the Cuban and Vietnamese flags. Both national anthems are played.

An address is read by an unidentified speaker on the reasons Vo Van Kiet deserves the Jose Marti Order medal. Castro pins the medal on Vo Van Kiet. Vo Van Kiet reads a speech in Vietnamese with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish. The color guard departs the room to the strains of the Internationalist Socialist anthem. Afterwards, Fidel is seen shaking hands with Vo Van Kiet. The program concludes.

Prime Minister Tours Of Scientific Hubs

FL0707211393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] On 7 July, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, expressed Vietnam's interest in developing scientific exchanges with the Cuban research and marketing center. Vo Van Kiet began his official activities with a tour of scientific hubs west of Havana, in the company of Concepcion Campa, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba. Vo Van Kiet and other high-level Vietnamese officials showed particular interest in pharmaceutical and agricultural products. The tour included the Carlos J. Finlay Institute, the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center, and the Scientific Research Center.

Official Affirms Agreements With Russia Signed

FL0807013393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Lionel Soto, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, has affirmed in Moscow that following a certain period of readjustment in bilateral ties, Cuba and Russia have agreed on other means to promote economic ties on mutually beneficial bases. Soto was pleased with the first results of his current visit to Moscow, where he just signed three agreements and an intergovernmental memorandum on the ratification of treaties to create joint enterprises.

The delegations from both nations gave the green light on accords to protect investments, and another for credits equivalent in rubles to $350 million, to complete projects of Russian technology still unfinished in Cuba. Likewise, they approved a similar accord on the continuation of the Juragua Nuclear Plant in Cienfuegos. In this case, accompanied by a $30 million credit toward this goal.

Lionel Soto also explained other details of the signed memorandum, including creation of joint enterprises to refine oil, and to produce fertilizers and tires in order to meet mutual needs and create a surplus for export.

UJC National Bureau Members Discuss Youth Role

FL0707210993

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 7 July, in its "Open Agenda" program, discusses the attitude of young people in Cuba and the fact that a number of young people have attained important decision-making levels in Cuba. Guests are Enith Arlem, member of the national bureau of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government, and a member of the Council of State; and Jose Antonio Concepcion, also a member of the UJC national bureau.

The discussion begins with the subject of social discipline. Host Antonio Resillez notes that the society has had occasion to criticize instances of social indiscipline on the part of young people or groups of young people in various parts of Cuba. Resillez asks for the UJC's assessment of this matter.

Concepcion answers that indeed, certain young people act in ways not approved of by the UJC, do not exhibit the social behavior the UJC thinks they should exhibit, but that he believes this is essentially an urban phenomenon. He feels all sectors of society must participate in discouraging such an attitude. He also thinks it would be inaccurate to attribute this attitude to young people in general. He points out that 33 percent of the sugar harvest's labor force is made up of young people, that Cuba's youth are very active in the Turquino Plan, and that many young Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry troops are today working at priority tasks,

such as the food program. He notes that 64,000 students are at present working in agriculture.

Arlem adds that everyone is concerned about cases of social indiscipline, and that it is the UJC's duty to get involved in such problems. She feels the problem should be neither underestimated nor exaggerated, and should be addressed by the UJC with a view to seeing what concrete action can be taken to solve it. She feels the cause of such behavior should be pinpointed, and that there is much work to be done in forming values because, she says, "these manifestations are nothing other than clear evidence that certain values have been lost." She believes that rather than theorizing, concrete action should be taken by everyone having influence over young people, to ensure that certain values are preserved. She also thinks people should not generalize about Cuba's youth.

Noting that this summer will be a difficult one, Resillez asks the guests about activities the UJC is preparing for the summer and for the next semester, which will also be difficult.

Arlem explains that given the nation's economic situation, Cuba's youth must participate in the nation's strategic, priority tasks—hence the participation of youths and children in agricultural and other tasks, which she says has been a UJC priority. She notes that the UJC is also sponsoring recreational activities for young people, stressing that the UJC wishes to reach as many young people as possible.

Resillez asks Concepcion how much solidarity Cuba is receiving from youth organizations in other countries.

Concepcion says brigades from 24 American and European countries are expected to visit Cuba this summer to work alongside the youth of Cuba, mainly in food program agriculture. He notes that a 14-member brigade of the socialist youth of the United States is already in Cuba, as well as a 17-member brigade from the (?Berlin) Anti-Imperialist League.

Resillez mentions that the media, as well as political observers from all over the world, are paying particular attention to the young age of certain comrades who have attained high levels of decision-making power within the Cuban Government and Communist Party. He notes that his own experience indicates young people to be present in not only high, but also at various other decision-making levels of the nation's socioeconomic structure. He asks how the UJC national bureau feels about this fact. He specifically elicits information on young people elected during the February 1993 elections.

Concepcion says people from abroad often ask about this, especially regarding the appointment of Robaina as foreign minister. They seem to see this as unusual, as a strategy of the moment. He says the UJC views this as a strategy of the Revolution throughout its history. He explains that young people in Cuba do not feel a generation gap because in Cuba, the young and the less young have always shared the trenches, have historically fought the Revolution's major battles together. He notes that Cuba is a nation of young people, with an average age of 32. He says that Cuba's youth feel they are part of a great social movement facing a common challenge, as all young Cubans have felt in the past. He adds that they feel a connection with what has already been accomplished, and feel especially committed to the future.

Arlem says she finds the question unusual, stressing that under the Revolution, young people have historically held important positions in Cuban society.

The cast ends at 0128 GMT.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Heads Give Go-Ahead for Joint Commission With Cuba

FL0707182893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1804 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, July 7, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders heads of government, meeting in the Bahamas, have finally given the go-ahead for the inauguration for a Caricom-Cuba joint commission. The commission is to foster co-operation in a wide range of areas, including science and technology, trade, and economic and cultural relations between Cuba and its English-speaking neighbours.

Caricom leaders had agreed to the launching of the commission at their special Caricom summit in Trinidad and Tobago last October. The delay in the inauguration, originally planned for Havana last April, was due to differences in the wording of the draft agreement for its establishment. The Grenada Government had disagreed with some of its Caricom colleagues in insisting on the inclusion of matters pertaining to free elections, and democracy.

The Caricom Secretariat was mandated to hold further talks with the Cuban Government to arrive at a satisfactory compromise. Cuba, represented by a delegation at the summit here, claimed that reference to free and fair elections could not be properly part of such an agreement.

"The issue is to have the identical agreement with Cuba that we have with other Latin American countries," St. Kitts/Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds told CANA.

"The heads of government have given guidelines to respond to the objections of the Cubans," Edwin Carrington, Caricom's secretary general said, adding: "we have made progress."

Conference sources said that once the leaders have completed their summit, the secretariat would be in a

position to make the necessary arrangement for scheduling a date for the first meeting of the commission, likely to be held in Havana.

At the opening ceremony of the summit here on Monday, Jamaica's Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson, reflected the position of a number of his colleagues when he urged Caricom to proceed in strengthening Caricom-Cuba ties and to adopt policies that will result in the integration of Havana into the Caribbean family.

Haiti

Police Said To 'Beat Up Many People' During Pro-Aristide Demonstration

FL0707215193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Passage within slantlines in Creole]

[Text] A pro-Aristide demonstration in Cap-Haitian followed a road accident in this city on 7 July. One person was killed. A witness gives details:

[Unidentified reporter] /They tell me there was a demonstration and distribution of flyers. Could you give us some details?
[Unidentified witness] People took the opportunity of the accident to demonstrate.

[Reporter] I am told that the police intervened. Was anyone arrested?
[Witness] No one was arrested, but in dispersing the crowd, the police beat up many people.

[Reporter] How long did it last?
[Witness] About two and a half hours./

Dupiton Says Agreement Must Be Submitted for Parliament's Approval

FL0607182093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 6 July 93

[Text] Difficulty in applying the Governors Island agreement is surfacing within the Parliament. Political susceptibilities and sensibilities prevail inside the body.

Following a meeting with the ministers of the ministerial cabinet on 5 July, Senator Dupiton said that the agreement must be submitted for the Parliament's approval before its application. Senator Dupiton borrowed the famous sentence of former Haitian President Nissage Saget to explain that after General Cedras' signature, it is up to the Haitian Parliament to play its role. Edner Jean filed a report:

[Begin Jean recording] Each donkey must bray in its own pasture, according to Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton who cited an old French proverb in trying to explain that General Raoul Cedras is finished playing his role and that it is up to the Parliament to swing into action. The general did not have the right to negotiate politically, he implied, before adding, quote: If the document that the general signed is a political agreement, it must be inevitably ratified by the Parliament, unquote. At a certain time the Senator even questioned the fact that the general signed the Governors Island agreement. He only said that he gave his approval to a plan for a solution to the crisis, stated President Dupiton, before saying, quote: If the commander signed such an agreement, we forgive him, unquote.

Discussing the question regarding the normalization of Parliament before the ratification of the prime minister, Senator Dupiton said that the Parliament he is leading is quite normal. Since the Parliament is already normal, according to the Senator-President of the Alliance, it is left only to ratify the prime minister who will be proposed by President Aristide.

[Begin Dupiton recording] That they expect that the Parliament is normalized while we know that we have a quite normal Parliament and that because it is normal, it took on its responsibilities, facing all different opinions that you can count in Haiti right now, to reinstate Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, there is only one thing that we are waiting for. It is an act of good will from Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide for him to appoint his prime minister and that he sends the name forward for ratification. Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide did not make me hold this document until now.

[Unidentified reporter] The 18 January elections as a problem.

[Dupiton] That does not concern President Aristide. It is something that would concern the conciliation commission. However, he did not have the vision to appoint the two members of the executive that should be part of this conciliation commission. The general does not have the right to negotiate politically. The general does not have this right. The general had to do something to help the Haitian people. The general's role is over. The Parliament now comes into play in order to do what concerns the Parliament. [Jean] The general talked about what is necessary to be done, must be done in order to solve the problem. By those statements, you question the general's signature.

[Dupiton] Who sent you to say what you just said? How do I complicate the situation?

[Jean] By those statements, don't you think....

[Dupiton, interrupting] I said that I was not questioning anything. I am telling you that each person works within his competence. Just as the former Haitian president used to say, quote: each donkey brays in its pasture, unquote.

[Jean] Senator Dupiton made those statements after a private meeting with certain members of the ministerial cabinet regarding the applicability of the Governors Island document. At the close of the session, we observed some demonstrations of anger from some deputies of the

Alliance in favor of a quick solution to the crisis. Those legislators severely criticized the new maneuvers that the Alliance senators seem about to launch. [end recording].

Joseph: Time Not Right for Ratification

FL0707165893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Passages within slantlines in Creole]

[Text] The time is not right to talk about the ratification of the Governors Island agreement by the Haitian Parliament as requested by Thomas Eddy Dupiton, president of the Senate office controlled by the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP]. The time is not appropriate for that, according to Antoine Joseph, president of the office of the Chamber of Deputies, still an ACP branch. It is out of the question to ratify an agreement signed between Haitians. Joseph talked with correspondent Daly Valet.

[Begin Joseph recording] /First, I must tell you that it is not the stand of the Chamber of Deputies. In the Chamber of Deputies first.... [pauses] You can see that we mostly want to see if we can move toward the normalization of Parliament. Then, we have a reservation about this statement. Our reservation is that.... [pauses] Well, the agreement.... [pauses] we do not see why this agreement should be ratified in national assembly because it is not an international agreement. It is, if you wish, a Haitian- Haitian agreement [C'est un accord, si vous voulez, Haitiano- Haitien]. It is an agreement signed by two Haitians. Maybe this was a maneuver by the international community to bypass the problem of national assembly, to bypass the problem that could arise by a ratification in national assembly. But for us in the Chamber of Deputies, it is just a Haitian-Haitian agreement./

The third point on which we would like to insist is that we do not think this approach is the best one in the current context. Why? Because we are pressed for time. There is nevertheless—it must be acknowledged—[UN] Resolution 841. There is a situation difficult enough that compels us to work quickly. I remember, for example, that yesterday the agriculture minister said that there would be very soon a supply problem in Port-au-Prince. So, we have a sword of Damocles over our heads. This situation compels us to act quickly and correctly. This is why at the Chamber of Deputies we have another vision of the solution to the crisis. We prefer to consider the agreement and to see how we can work toward its enforcement while preserving the national sovereignty and the Parliament and making this Parliament a strong parliament, a strong institution. [end recording]

FNCD Deputy Charles Condemns Dupiton's Stand, Has Same Opinion as Joseph

FL0707222693 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] Deputy Kerne Charles condemns Senator Dupiton's stand. He has the same opinion as Deputy Antoine Joseph and asks the Senate president, of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, to put aside personal ambitions and save the country that is dying.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Charles] What I can say is that the agreement that was signed between President Aristide and General Cedras is an agreement between nationals and does not involve the Parliament. This means the question of ratification being raised by Sen. Dupiton is mostly aimed at prolonging the crisis. They want to stall for time. Also, it is a maneuver to legalize or justify the presence of the 18 January parliamentarians because he already knows that once something is being done and he is at its root, it will be an opportunity for him to again involve the 18 January parliamentarians. He knows that the departure of these people is unavoidable for the parliamentary crisis to be resolved.

[Valet] You said that Dupiton makes this statement to stall for time. In your opinion, what is Dupiton's purpose in raising this question of ratification?

[Charles] Well, I believe his ultimate purpose is to preserve the elements of the 18 January election.... [pauses] as I feel that he is very pleased to be Senate president. [end recording]

Parties To Negotiate at United Nations 14 Jul

FL0707230493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Dante Caputo's political adviser in Haiti, Leandro (Despouilles), met with the press today to explain the provisions of the Governors Island agreement, signed on 3 July by President Aristide and Army Commander in Chief Raoul Cedras. Clarence Renois reports live:

[Renois] Thank you, Keithly. This is a brief report to say that Leandro (Despouilles) just publicly presented the Governors Island Agreement to the press. It had been signed on 3 July by the Haitian parties represented by General Raoul Cedras and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Leandro (Despouilles) is, as you say, Dante Caputo's representative in Port-au-Prince and is the link for the UN and the OAS with the political parties in Haiti in an attempt to solve... [pauses] to apply the first provision of this agreement.

It is about finding a political respite, rallying the political parties represented within the Haitian parliament for a political talk. (Despouilles) announced that this political talk would be held on Wednesday, 14 July, in the United States, in New York at UN headquarters. There, the UN

secretary general will have the opportunity to meet with the principal Haitian political leaders or their representatives who will participate in this political negotiation encouraged by the UN and the OAS, and provided for in the first provision in the Governors Island agreement.

Another item of news announced by (Despouilles) is the commitment of the international community to enforcing the application of this agreement. It is also the responsibility of the international community to go beyond the four months provided for in normalization of the Haitian crisis. The international community wants to stay with the Republic of Haiti to help it definitively enter into a democratic process, he said.

Mobile 19 from the Montana Hotel for Radio Metropole.

'Skepticism' Despite Signing of Governors Island Agreement Noted

FL0707225293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] We were speaking of skepticism in Haiti after the signing of the Governors Island agreement. Skepticism was still reigning on 6 July despite the signing of the Governors Island Agreement which provides for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, overthrown in September 1991 by a military coup d'etat. The agreement signed on 3 July, providing for the return of President Aristide on 30 October and the departure of Haitian Army chief, General Cedras, has not given rise to major reactions within the Haitian political class and the various economic sectors still affected by the petroleum embargo. The conversations remain focused on enforcement of the Governors Island Agreement. Gen. Cedras' anticipated departure, provided for in the agreement, allegedly leaves little room for maneuvering by President Aristide who wants the replacement of all officers in the Army High Command. To respect the Haitian Constitution, however, he will have to choose the new commander in chief from among the three general officers (?of the regular Army) who will remain in their posts.

The various sectors that supported the September 1991 coup keenly desire on 6 July that the new commander in chief be chosen in compliance with the Constitution. The only path that would remain open to the restored president would be—according to a source close to the Armed Forces—the appointment of some members of the high command to diplomatic posts or as military attaches.

Shortly after the signing of the Governors Island Agreement, Gen. Cedras said that he did not sign anything not provided for by the Constitution. He said: I did not accept and will not accept that any member of the Armed Forces be affected. Any reforms must be carried out in accordance with the Constitution and the general rules of the Army, he assured.

Reaction to Agreement Signed in New York

FL0607173593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Passages within slantlines recorded]

[Text] Most Haitian leaders commented yesterday on the 3 July agreement signed in New York for the restoration of democracy in Haiti. It theoretically is a nice example of political compromise which guarantees safety to all sectors in society, said the National Congress of Democratic Movements, a party close to President Aristide. In a communique, Victor Benoit's party demanded the immediate enforcement of the agreement signed in New York by the chief of the Haitian Army, General Raould Cedras and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

For his part, Senate President Thomas Eddy Dupiton, member of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] opposed to President Aristide, stated on a private radio station in the capital that the agreement should be submitted to the Parliament for approval before it comes into being. Sen. Dupiton acknowledged, however, that the Governors Island agreement marks an important step toward the resolution of the Haitian crisis. He made this statement on 5 July during a meeting with the ministers of the Consensus Government about the document signed by the two parties involved in the country's crisis.

[Dupiton] /...just passed a new turning point with the week of inter-Haitian negotiations bringing protagonists reputed to be apparently irreconcilable until now. Faithful to its sacrosanct mission of giver of lessons, the international press hastened to shout victory and even seemed to regret that the signing of the Caputo document has not given rise to the expected surge. Others have proved to be more skeptical, pointing out the possible shady areas of the agreement and the possible hazards that could harm its execution./

Parliamentarains on all sides must unite to defend the homeland in danger, added Sen. Dupiton in his speech to the Haitian Parliament on 5 July.

/...family father, no matter how divided that family may be. Why would we not see in it a new motive for hope? For instance, why would all parliamentarians in general not be ready today to hold out the olive branch to one another, going beyond their ideological or doctrinal divergences? Why would the political blocs of all leanings not silence their resentments—just like President Aristide and Gen. Cedras—to smoke together the pipe of peace and to present a united front to adversity?/

The time for delaying tactics has ended, said Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the office of the Constitutional Anti-Corruption Bloc [branch within the Senate]. During an interview given to Signal FM, President Jean-Louis said that the Governors Island agreement be taken seriously. It must not meet with the same fate as the

Washington agreement, he explained. Moreover, the senator warned those who would attempt to violate the clauses of this agreement.

[Jean-Louis, in Creole] /...Aristide, well, we think the time of delaying tactics has ended. I am taking this opportunity to warn against any vague desire, [against] all those who think that they can start again an infernal cycle of stalling tactics about this agreement just like they did the Washington agreement. If they are people who want the country to.... [pauses] the country's sovereignty to be completely trampled on, if they are people who want the situation to totally turn into catastrophe, well, it is their problem, but I issue a warning: I tell the entire Haitian people that there are people who are apparently ready to become involved again in stalling tactics about the agreement. Well, we members of the Senate of the Republic say no, no, and no a thousand times. That will not be done again; after 21 months, we have had enough. We must resume our parliamentary work, we must resume our embrace, our brotherly embrace, we must resume the parliamentary works so as to revive the country, so as to move the country forward./

Deputy Samuel Madistin has the same opinion as Deputy.... [pauses]—sorry—as Sen. Thomas Eddy Dupiton. He called for the unity of the parliamentary blocs for the ratification—this time—of the choice of the prime minister whom President Aristide is supposed to designate. Madistin feared the total decline of the country because of the new sanctions in force since 23 June.

[Madistin, in Creole] /...that the agreement resolves this problem in a clear, straight, and unequivocal manner. The agreement that Gen. Cedras signed with President Aristide clearly states that the 18 January elections are not included. So, if you see that things [as heard] are being done, it is people who are negotiating about jobs, who are saying that they want elections, that they cannot lose their jobs like that, that they must be given posts of general manager. They are asking for posts of consul abroad, and so on. Personally, I think it is unfortunate that we are experiencing such a situation because—if you look at what is happening in the streets—I just verified that people in the Port-au-Prince streets are offering taxi drivers $6 [30 gourdes] to take them to Carrefour [Port-au-Prince suburb] and the drivers do not agree whereas the official fare is 1.75 gourdes. There is no gasoline, there is nothing.

I think it is time for the two antagonistic blocs within the Chamber of Deputies, for all of us who constitute the legal Parliament to meet and to ratify a prime minister as soon as possible so the crisis can end, so the embargo can be lifted, so the blockade can end, so gasoline can come into the country, and so life can resume in the country./

MIDH Supports Meeting in New York

FL0607205193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] The Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, led by former Prime Minister Marc Bazin, comments on the meeting in New York last week. The New York meeting, supported by MIDH, is positive in at least two respects: On the one hand, it helped fix positions and establish exactly who wants what. On the other hand, it should foster conditions under which all Haitian and foreign partners can play the game in good faith in order to remedy the situation. MIDH says, however, the road will be long and hard. General Cedras and President Aristide showed the way. The international community supported them well. It is up to Haitian democrats and patriots to do the rest, states this note from MIDH over the signature of Partick Michel, director of communications.

ACP, Socialist Bloc Parliamentarians Form Committee for Normalization

FL0707163593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Passages within slantlines in Creole]

[Text] The Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] and Socialist Bloc parliamentarians formed a committee during a meeting held in camera on 6 July. This committee will have to work toward the normalization of the situation at the Haitian parliament. This committee has four deputies. They will present points for discussion on the resumption of the interparliamentary negotiations for a solution to the crisis in parliament. Deputy Antoine Joseph provides the details to correspondent Daly Valet.

[Begin recording] [Joseph] /We would like to inform the nation that starting now the Chamber of Deputies has begun working toward a normalization within parliament. We could say that it is essentially normalization within the Chamber of (?Deputies) first, then the issue should be tackled in the sense of a widespread normalization. Today, ACP and Socialist Group deputies met. They have begun raising the problem of normalization. One of our ideas is to see if normalization can be done without its being necessarily raised at the national conference. We have set up, within this framework, a committee in charge of presenting a report. This report will be considered the normalization file of the Chamber of Deputies./ This committee is made up of Deputies Joseph Lambert from Jacmel, Frederic Cheron from Pestel, Yves Pericles Beauge from Maissade, and Pierre Simon Georges from Camp-Perrin.

It should be noted that the political groups within the parliament except the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] are also represented on this committee. This committee will present its report on 8 July. It will start working on 7 July at 0900. We will just use that report to approach the FNCD and the Senate in

order to have first a normalization within the Chamber of Deputies and then to consider a widespread normalization of the parliament.

[Valet] /Will this committee work on the issue of 18 January elections also?/

[Joseph] /In principle, all issues will be tackled. First, there will be an inventory of the problems of the parliament which are abnormal. What really makes it abnormal? The two offices, the 18 January elections, the administrative problems, all those issues will be tackled by the committee. All actions that occurred and that are questioned by the FNCD will be addressed with the hope that the committee will actually be ready on 8 July so we can enter into a new phase of negotiations with the FNCD./ [end recording]

Thomas Eddy Dupiton, president of the Senate office controled by the ACP, stated on a sister radio station on 5 July that the agreement should be submitted to the Haitian parliament for ratification. Joseph thinks the time is not appropriate for that.

Senator Larossiliere Cited on Parliament Normalization

FL0607205393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Contacts with a view toward discussions are taking place between the two parliamentary blocs, the Alliance and the Constitutionalists, in order to reach normalization of the Parliament as soon as possible, Senator Julio Larossiliere said today, adding that normalization of this institution does not necessarily mean disputing the much debated 18 January elections.

Questioned on the possible ratification of the Governors Island agreement signed on 3 July by President Aristide and General Cedras, the senator from the South Department specifies that the parliament has nothing to ratify because, according to him, the agreement is between two Haitians. Regarding the conciliation commission proposed by his colleague, Thomas Eddy Dupiton, to resolve the conflict between the two blocs within the parliament, Sen. Larossiliere says this commission does not exist for the time being, thereby rejecting Dupiton's proposal.

For Julio Larossiliere, it is not the parliament that is blocking the situation. It is up to President Aristide to select his prime minister, with or without consultation with the presidents of both chambers. It is at that moment that Parliament will have to intervene to ratify or not ratify the choice, the legislator explained.

FMR Supports Application of Article 149 of Constitution

FL0607204993 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The Militant Revolutionary Forces [FMR] supports the application of Article 149 of the Constitution to lead the country out of illegality. In an interview with Signal FM, Francisque Jean condemns certain points of the agreement signed on 3 July on Governors Island between President Aristide and Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras. Forty-eight hours after the signing of the Governors Island agreement, the FMR leader (?is reacting) by denouncing the stubbornness of the country's political authorities. Dante Caputo is not [word indistinct]. They are stubborn, they should have followed the plan I drew up for them, Francisque Jean recalled, arguing that the future prime minister will run a prosperous business [as heard] and that negotiations will again become snarled. The agreement signed on 3 July between the two Haitian parties at the conclusion of the Governors Island talks provides for holding, under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAS, a political dialogue among representatives of the political parties represented in the parliament.

Jean energetically condemns the team of Bazin, the consensus prime minister from 19 June 1992 to 8 June 1993. As a solution, the country should be set on the path of legality so as to facilitate the negotiations that must result in the return of President Aristide on 30 October. The prime minister will not be entitled to play all roles, especially regarding the application of points 1, 5, and 7 of the agreement. [passage omitted]

The FMR leader supports the implementation of Article 149 of the 1987 Constitution with the appointment of Justice Emile Jonassaint, the senior judge at the Court of Cassation, not for holding elections within 90 days, but to bring ousted President Jean- Bertrand Aristide to constitutional legality. Francis Jean rejects and condemns in advance the decrees and orders made in the U.S.A. [last three words in English]

Electoral Council Member Prepared To Request Voiding of 18 Jan Elections

FL0607210693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] A member of the Electoral Council is prepared to request voiding the controversial 18 January elections. Jean-Francisque Merissier has invited legislators to reach agreement on the conflict. In a letter addressed to senators and deputies, Merissier considers that if the election is constituting an obstacle to the normalization of the situation, it is appropriate to find a formula as quickly as possible in order to release the country.

Salinas Swears In 'National Institute To Fight Drugs' Commissioner

PA0707152393 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari swore in Jorge Tello Peon as commissioner of the recently created National Institute To Fight Drugs [Instituto Nacional para el Combate a las Drogas] on 5 July. The new institute was created by a presidential decree issued on 17 June and will be a decentralized agency of the Attorney General's Office.

During the swearing in ceremony, the president said that in the past six months Mexico has had more drug seizures than Canada and the United States combined in that same period. He said his government will continue to fight drug trafficking with the full force of the law and Mexican institutions.

Salinas appointed Jorge Carrillo Olea as adviser to the foreign policy group that will draft Mexico's proposal on the struggle against drug trafficking to be presented at the United Nations.

Tello Peon, 37, was general director of the Planning Center for Drug Control at the Attorney General's Office. He had been the general coordinator of the Office for Control of Crimes Against Health at the Attorney General's Office since 1990.

Attorney General Jorge Carpizo and other officials attended the ceremony at Los Pinos, the official residence.

Business Association Head Not Concerned Over NAFTA Delay

PA0707130793 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by Rita Ganem]

[Text] Rodrigo Guerra, president of the National Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters, ANIERM, does not think that a possible delay in approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] is any reason to panic.

[Begin Guerra recording] We are not at all concerned by a possible 90-day delay in NAFTA implementation; I believe this is synonymous with trust. Here we considered NAFTA a treaty between governments, regardless of what it is called. [end recording]

The leader of more than 1,000 entrepreneurs that make up ANIERM spoke about his group's reaction to the ruling by U.S. Judge (Ritchie), which has temporarily halted NAFTA.

[Begin Guerra recording] If NAFTA does not take effect on 1 January 1994, that does not mean it will not take effect on 1 March 1994. I think this is where we need to be a bit cunning. We must remember that trade with the United States and the economy has kept up despite the economic measures the government has very intelligently taken, and those things will not be affected just because NAFTA takes two or three months more to become effective. [end recording]

On another topic, Mr. Rodrigo Guerra said he thinks the United States will promptly approve an extension of the generalized system of tariff preferences, the suspension of which could affect $4.5 billion worth of Mexican products that are protected by this free tariff system annually.

* Necessity of Free Trade Agreement Questioned

93CA0152A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Jun 93 pp 6-A, 8-A

[Commentary entitled: "Development on Our Own; Don't Depend Just on the FTA," by Guillermo Knochenhauer, identified by the 20 Nov 89 Mexico City PROCESO as included on an Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) "list of PRI journalists."]

[Text] The long road that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has yet to travel, from the by no means easy conclusion of the negotiations on the side agreements to its passage by the U.S. House of Representatives, strongly suggests that the odds of its taking effect on 1 January 1994 are at best even. Accordingly, the predictions about what might happen in Mexico after this November with the FTA are just as valid as any predictions about what might happen without it.

Scenarios without an FTA for our country have been published both inside and outside Mexico; they predict a drop in the GDP, wide-ranging speculation against the peso and its subsequent devaluation, the collapse of the Mexican Stock Exchange, and, if all this were to happen, a sharp drop in everyone's buying power.

How many of these doom-and-gloom predictions could come true merely if society became convinced that the current economic model would be left without an underpinning if there were no FTA? And how much of what might happen would be due to economic and, therefore, less subjective causes?

Scenarios that do not attach that much importance to the eventuality of the FTA not taking effect have also been developed; they are based on the premise that even if the agreement takes effect, the conditions for foreign investment and trade will not be liberalized any more than they already have been.

The logic of this second view is that not much will happen as far as investment flows into our country and our exports are concerned, even should the agreement take effect next year.

There will be no striking changes in investment in Mexico under an FTA, first because the U.S. and Canadian companies that want to and can invest are already here; second, because companies from outside the area

that are capital intensive are going to prefer the U.S. and Canadian tariffs on their imports to Mexico's tariffs, and third, because the Mexican market does not attract them as it is very small.

As for exports, we will have to wait and see what impact an FTA with clear-cut, dependable, and stable trade regulations will really have, inasmuch as the overwhelming majority of our country's overseas sales are handled by transnational corporations that are pursuing, above all, corporate strategies of international division of production processes and have never had trouble integrating them in crossing borders. If the effects of the FTA now on Mexican economic growth are not supposed to be spectacular, why then should we expect that postponing the startup date will have catastrophic effects?

The answers to this question go beyond economic reasoning and are to be found entirely in the realm of subjective judgments, which are the stuff of social psychology.

Foreign investors and governments, for their part, see the FTA as grounds for trusting that the Mexican Government's neoliberal policies will survive, while Mexican nationals have been convinced that the agreement is the necessary framework, even above and beyond our own laws and political decisions, for obtaining the outside support that is indispensable for the country's development.

The government must see to it that the confidence of Mexicans in its development strategy is based on our culture and our legal, political, and economic tools and resources, not the ones agreed upon with outside forces.

* NAFTA Without Side Agreements Urged

93CA0149A Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 14 Jun 93 p 68

[Commentary by Luis Pazos: "Bad Faith; The Paradox of the Side Agreements"]

[Text] The so-called side agreements on labor relations, the environment, and safeguards are theoretically designed to make sure that workers in Mexico are not exploited in their labor relations. As for the environment, they seek to insure that the possibility of violating environmental regulations, which means lower costs for certain industries, does not prompt U.S. firms to emigrate to Mexico.

The purpose of the safeguards is to see to that the grounds for halting the process of deregulation, boosting tariffs on an item, or even suspending the agreement are subordinated to compliance with the side agreements, as overseen by tripartite commissions with the power to apply penalties.

The clearest paradox for and inconsistency of the proponents of the side agreements in the United States is that it is precisely the ratification and implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will most quickly level out labor and environmental conditions in the two countries.

If the environmental groups that oppose the agreement in the United States were really seeking to preserve the environment in Mexico, they would be the first to support it because it is only after the agreement has been signed that environmental regulations, as provided for in it, will tend to equalize.

The Free Trade Process

As the experience of Europe demonstrates, the very influence of an FTA will mean that after it is in force, the signatory countries will gradually sign side agreements on countless issues. Conditioning or talking about side agreements on culture, education, labor law, drug trafficking, tourism, the environment, social security, migration, etc., before the FTA is like wanting to run before one can walk.

The regional commissions with the power to penalize, which some U.S. negotiators are calling for and as they exist in Europe, belong to the stage of integration called a common market.

In order to talk about a common market we must first allow the 15 years to pass during which the flow of merchandise and services becomes completely deregulated, this being the goal of the FTA.

The Facts

The side agreements are a form of pressure from those in the United States who see the FTA as harmful to their immediate interests. Among them are U.S. union groups that are opposed not only to the signing of the FTA with Mexico but also to any kind of trade liberalization.

In the medium and long run, however, even these union groups will benefit from the agreement because higher living standards and a heavier demand for labor in Mexico will reduce immigration into the United States while the purchases of American goods by Mexicans will increase.

The Chinese, Koreans, or Germans, because of their different customs and geographical distance, do not buy from the United States as much as they sell to it, whereas Mexicans, because of their geographical proximity, a more than 3,000 kilometer-long border, and their similar consumption habits, will consume more products from the United States as soon as their income rises.

Conclusion

Side agreements are a logical step after the FTA takes effect, but not before.

The very text of the agreement already talks about legislation regarding health care, the environment, and many other areas.

Using such agreements as a weapon to delay or thwart an agreement that will benefit both countries is an act of bad faith or ignorance.

By boosting the demand for labor in Mexico, the FTA will narrow the wage gap between workers in Mexico and the United States, which is the main cause of immigration into the United States. And by spurring economic growth, it will generate funds to take better care of the environment.

Paradoxically, the FTA is in and of itself the best guarantee for achieving the objectives that its opponents are seeking through the side agreements.

President Signs Federal District Political Reform Law

PA0707142993 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari signed the draft law on political reforms for the Federal District and submitted it to Congress for consideration. He said the reforms reaffirm the political rights of Federal District residents. Jose Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido, secretary of the Governor's Office, and Federal District Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis were present at the signing.

The draft law states that the reforms will reconcile the nature of the Federal District as capital of the republic and seat of the powers of the union with Mexico City residents' exercise of their political rights.

The reform contemplates 10 constitutional articles dealing with treasury, finance, political-administrative organization, and the presence of federal powers in the Federal District. President Salinas says that if the draft law is approved it will change politics in the Federal District and will consolidate local political rights of Mexico City residents.

The Assembly of Representatives will be strengthened as the city's political organization. It will have legislative powers in areas such as expenditure approval, finance and revenue laws, soil use, ecological balance, environmental preservation, electoral legislation, and citizen participation.

Judicial autonomy will be strengthened through the Federal District's Supreme Justice Tribunal, which will have the power to draft its own budget. The city mayor, who will be selected in a democratic and representative process, will have responsibility for city administration and government.

Costa Rica

Government 'Eager' for Escobar Relatives To Leave Country

PA0707192993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1446 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] San Jose, 7 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The problems with Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria's relatives have extended to Costa Rica. Seven of Escobar's relatives were rejected by Argentina and Peru and arrived in Costa Rica after a brief stay in Panama. The Chilean Government has also made unsuccessful attempts to expel other relatives of the Colombian drug lord.

Several groups have expressed their fear that the presence of Escobar's relatives in Costa Rica could cause serious problems for the country's flimsy security, a situation brought to the forefront by three kidnapping cases occurring in the past seven months. The groups have demanded that all possible action be taken to get the Colombians to leave the country as soon as possible.

Pablo Escobar's seven relatives, including two of his brothers, arrived in Costa Rica as tourists on 26 June. Their entry documents were in order as there is no impediment to their entering Costa Rica. They do not face criminal charges in any country, including Colombia.

Luis Fishman, Costa Rican government and security minister, has asserted: "We are eager" for them to leave the country. Fishman believes Escobar's relatives pose a serious problem for security in Costa Rica, which has not had an Army since 1949, as their enemies could seek vengeance against them. [passage omitted]

The problems for the Costa Rican police, however, have already begun. They must find the seven members of the Escobar Gaviria family, who disappeared after going through immigration. The police have been unable to locate them although an intense search is under way.

Minister Fishman held a news conference and admitted that the police force does not have any leads regarding the Colombians' whereabouts. He said the search continues, but the Colombians have not registered in any hotel or rented any vehicle.

The government has asked that Escobar Gaviria's relatives leave the country. It noted, however, that there is no impediment to the Colombians entering or remaining in Costa Rica for the period stipulated by the tourist permit, which ends on 26 July.

Fishman said it is possible that the Colombians have not been found because they are staying at the homes of people in Costa Rica. He firmly denied, however, that Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the man most wanted by Colombian authorities, is in Costa Rica, as several media sources have stated.

The relatives of the Medellin Cartel chief are Francisco Arteaga Gallardo (40); his wife, Maria Escobar Gaviria (38), who is Pablo Escobar's sister; and their children, Maria Lourdes (12), Leonardo (11), and Sarita Arteaga Escobar (10).

Argemiro Escobar Gaviria (42), who is Pablo Escobar's brother, and his son Pablo (12), are also in Costa Rica. [passage omitted]

Escobar Relatives Leave for Colombia

PA0807013693 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0257 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] San Jose, 7 Jul (DPA)—The seven relatives of Medellin Cartel leader Pablo Escobar, who arrived in Costa Rican territory on 26 June, left on the evening of 7 July for Colombia, after being invited by the government "to leave the country." Escobar's relatives—two brothers, a brother-in-law, and four nephews, the latter all minors—left at 1820 [0020 GMT] on a Colombian SAM flight, Public Security Minister Luis Fishman reported.

Juan Carlos Martinez, who had entered the country with Escobar's relatives, also returned to Colombia with them.

Guatemala

Authorities Arrest 10 Suspects in Carpio Murder Case

PA0707234793 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The authorities have captured 10 individuals who allegedly murdered Jorge Carpio Nicolle and three of his companions on 3 July in Quiche. On the evening of 6 July, President Ramiro de Leon Carpio announced the arrests of the first two alleged murderers, but on 7 July the authorities in Quiche reported the arrest of eight more individuals. According to correspondent Edgar Rene Saenz, all of the detainees are members of the self-styled Los Churuneles criminal gang, which has operated for some time in that area.

The captures are the result of an intense operation by approximately 3,000 security agents, who are covering an extensive area that includes parts of Quiche and Solola. The gang operates primarily in Los Encuentros Municipality, Pucujil Village, and other neighboring villages along the Inter-American highway. The area in question is described by the authorities as the Bermuda Triangle because of the many buses that have been attacked and forced to deviate from their routes. A number of attacks on privately owned vehicles have also been reported.

The operation was intensified early on 7 July, and participating police and Army troops have surrounded a

vast area from which no private citizen is allowed to leave without first establishing his identity and profession.

Certain homes have also been searched and there are reports to the effect that in one of them the authorities found cameras and sun glasses, loot from Los Churuneles' attacks on tourists. The authorities have confirmed their theory that the gang's members were formerly insurgents. Weapons were seized from the detainees, and one of them is implicated in several other crimes.

It has been reported that several members of the gang were captured in February and released in June due an alleged lack of evidence against them. The decision by the Solola court prompted criticism. It has also been announced that members of the gang arrested individually have been promptly acquitted. The authorities have been receiving constant reports of incidents attributed to Los Churuneles and there have been public demands for their arrests.

On 7 July, two of the persons who were with Jorge Carpio on the night of the tragedy traveled to Quiche. They are Ricardo San Pedro, who was wounded, and (?Til Dei Chow), who will examine the valuables seized from the detainees in an attempt to identify the belongings of the National Center Union delegation that was broken into on the night of the incident.

The Attorney General's Office is conducting an investigation at the scene of the crime and the General Court Supervisory Office [Supervision General de Tribunales] will attempt to establish the circumstances under which members of Los Churuneles were released after they were arrested. Three platoons of security agents are participating in a search for other members of the gang, in an operation that includes military commandos.

The first individuals captured were identified as brothers Nazario and Marcelino Tuy Taniel.

Archbishopric's Communique Repudiates Acts of Violence

PA0607142293 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Communique issued by Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric of Guatemala in Guatemala City; date not given]

[Text] The Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric of Guatemala states:

1. Its repudiation of the persistent acts of violence, typically political, that have occurred recently and whose common denominator is attacks against members and leaders of various active sectors of the country's political life.

2. Those incidents are intended to create a climate of political instability and unrest among the population and to prevent the normal development of the democratic forces that were strengthened in the wake of the aborted institutional break.

3. The forced disappearance, torture, and subsequent release of Elizabeth Recinos de Leon and Griselda Ortiz, labor organization members; Jose Oscar Turcios Orozco, university professor; and political leader Jorge Carpio Nicolle stand out in this climate of violence.

4. The Office fears that if these events are not clarified there will be a generalized occurrence of the same type of incident, strengthening the regime of impunity that prevails in the country and dashing the people's hopes created when the new government was installed.

5. The continued political violence means there are radical active groups, shrouded with the cloak of impunity, who are again appearing at a time when Guatemalan society seeks to consolidate a democratic way of life.

Therefore:

1. It demands that the proper authorities give specific and immediate evidence of the investigations conducted following each of these incidents so the masterminds and culprits of the same will be punished.

2. It appeals to Guatemalan society, especially to the victims' relatives, to give all necessary cooperation so the investigations will help keep such incidents from going unpunished.

3. It expresses its solidarity with and condolences to the Journalists Association and to the families of Jorge Carpio Nicolle and university professor Jose Oscar Turcios.

Government To Make Dialogue Announcement 7 Jul

PA0207125193 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] In a week the government will decide whether it will renew in the near future negotiations with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity to sign a peace agreement.

The media has reported that peace dialogue mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada has announced the talks will be renewed in July, but President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has said:

[Begin recording] [De Leon] On 7 July the government, through the constitutional president of Guatemala, will announce, after having analyzed the situation and the details of the peace process and all the matters having to do with the process, the plan it will propose and the government position on this process. I will announce this on 7 July. I am implementing a new style of government

in which we will set deadlines so that the Guatemalan people know when something is going to be done so there is no speculation.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the government commission be changed?

[De Leon] We are analyzing that right now. We will make that announcement in due time. We have not decided on this yet. [end recording]

Government Minister Announces Civilian Security Plan

PA0307160393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0415 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Government Minister Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso, on taking his oath of office, announced the government will implement a new civilian security plan.

[Begin Ortiz recording] The 180-day plan highlights an operation called the Civilian Citizen Security Plan. The idea is for the security forces to be strictly civilian. This does not mean that the Armed Forces or the Army, under specific circumstances and as stated in the Constitution, may not be summoned. This will occur only in cases of emergency, as allowed by the Constitution. Otherwise, the security forces will be strictly civilian, not only in their composition but in their activities in the community. [end recording]

National Reconciliation Commission To Be Dissolved

PA0707232593 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 5 Jul 93 pp 50, 51

[Text] The National Reconciliation Commission [CNR] will be dissolved on 5 July. This was confirmed by writer Teresa Bolanos de Zarco, a prominent member of the Commission. The Commission was created in 1987 after a decision by the then presidents of the Central American countries, who included its creation in the Esquipulas II Agreement.

Bolanos de Zarco said the CNR's dissolution was decided by consensus among its members. She said that Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno will continue to work as conciliator in the peace process because this role was established in the Oslo Accords.

She explained that the CNR members decided to dissolve the Commission because they felt it had fulfilled the task for which it had been created. Bolanos de Zarco said that according to the Esquipulas II Agreement, the CNR was designed to create opportunities and a trustworthy and strong foundation to permit a peace dialogue process. She said this was achieved from the moment the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG], the two parties involved in the conflict, began to hold talks.

The CNR includes Bishops Rodolfo Quezada and Juan Gerardi Conedera and prominent citizens Teresa Bolanos de Zarco and Mario Permuth, all of whom were constantly on the move to promote the peace process.

Bolanos de Zarco added that this is the right moment to dissolve the CNR honorably. She said the CNR headquarters will now become the headquarters of Conciliator Quezada Toruno and that she will help with the financial and administrative management of this office.

She said the CNR was not exactly created to lead the talks between the government and the URNG but to create the conditions for a cease-fire, an amnesty, and everything that contributes to reconciliation. She said that in an effort to cooperate, the CNR went beyond its functions after the Oslo Accords were signed in 1990 because the Commission established the entire program so the civilian sector would serve as the structure for the peace dialogue process.

In 1991, when direct contact between the URNG and the government was made for the first time, the CNR should have been dissolved because it had brought the parties in conflict to the dialogue table.

In recognition of the CNR's work in the last six years, President Ramiro de Leon Carpio will grant the Order of the Quetzal to its members at a ceremony at CNR headquarters on 5 July.

New Supreme Electoral Tribunal President Appointed

PA0307180993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Jul 93 p2

[Text] On 1 July Fernando Antonio Bonilla Martinez was appointed president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) in a special session held at the TSE office.

The election of the magistrate occurred after the resignation of former TSE President Arturo Herbruger, who was appointed by Congress to the post of vice president. Herbruger was chosen to accompany new President Ramiro de Leon Carpio to end the presidential term left incomplete by deposed President Serrano Elias, which concludes on 14 January 1996.

The TSE presidency had been temporarily held by Manuel Ruano Mejia, TSE first magistrate, who resigned, leaving the post vacant.

Marcos Roberto Guerra Roldan, TSE first magistrate, said the Bonilla Martinez appointment was made unanimously and the hierarchy of the position was respected. Congress should now elect the alternate magistrates.

TSE President Fernando Bonilla Martinez previously held the position of first magistrate. After his unanimous appointment to the presidency, he described the organization of the institution responsible for overseeing faithful compliance with the general elections as follows: Fernando Antonio Bonilla Martinez, president; Marco

Roberto Guerra Roldan, first magistrate; Gabriel Antonio Medrano Valenzuela, second magistrate; Hugo Leonel Maul Figueroa, third magistrate; Carlos Roberto Sanchez, fourth magistrate.

He said the Congress of the Republic should now appoint four alternate magistrates, because given the changes made in the institution's high-ranking positions, Maul Figueroa and Sanchez Lazo have assumed the office of principal magistrates. Only one alternate magistrate remains, Luis Felipe Saenz Juarez, so the Legislative Branch should elect four new alternate magistrates to fill the TSE vacancies.

Electoral Tribunal Confirms Solidarity Action Win

PA0307171993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2307 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) has closed the 9 May election process in 276 municipalities throughout Guatemala and ratified the victory of deposed President Jorge Serrano's Solidarity Action Movement Party (MAS).

The TSE reported in a communique issued on 2 July that the process had closed as of 30 June and announced that the new mayors will be sworn in on 15 July.

According to the official TSE results, the MAS won 103 municipalities. The MAS had been in office since 1991 when Serrano, who is now in Panama under asylum, carried out the self-inflicted coup on 25 May.

Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) received 41 mayoral offices, the Union of the National Center (UCN) managed 37, and the National Vanguard Party (PAN) 35.

The Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) received five municipal corporations, the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) four, the Revolutionary Party (PR) three, the Guatemalan Reformist Party (PREG) two, the Nationalist Authentic Central (CAN) two, the Popular Democratic Front (FDP) two, the National Liberation Movement (MLN) two, and the National Organized Union (UNO) one.

By coalition, the political parties won 20 municipal seats, while the civic committees conquered 19.

According to the TSE, 634,097 of the 1,570,003 Guatemalans registered to vote went to the polls, a 40.38 percent turn out.

The communique also stated that the TSE had appointed Magistrate Fernando Antonio Martinez as the new president of this high legal body.

Martinez fills the space left vacant after the resignation of Arturo Herbruger, the current vice president, and Manuel Ruano Mejia, who should have taken the position under the Electoral and Political Party Law.

New Bank President Sees Monetary Policy Unchanged

PA0307130293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Jul 93 p 54

[Text] Economist Willy Waldemar Zapata Sagastume, appointed on 1 July as president of the Bank of Guatemala [Banguat], and president of the Monetary Board (JM), stated that although changes are necessary, at the moment none are going to be implemented in the monetary, exchange, and credit policies approved by the JM Board this year.

In statements to PRENSA LIBRE, Zapata said one of his priorities is to search for ways to recapture those macroeconomic variables found in the stabilization program promoted during the beginning of the year, which showed positive results. At present, no changes are necessary, at least not at the start of his management.

"In the past four weeks government revenues have decreased significantly and international monetary reserves have fallen to unexpected levels," the Banguat official pointed out.

Zapata, who until 1 July occupied the position of Banguat vice president, said Guatemala has lost $64 million in monetary reserves, and that the task for now lies in trying to recover those funds to strengthen the exchange rate.

"It is urgent for us to start recapturing the main macroeconomic variables. To do so, we will make all necessary efforts to settle the inflation rate at 8 percent by the end of the year, just as we had forecast in January," he said.

Zapata said talks with the World Bank and the IMF would be restarted to make them aware of the importance of maintaining the economic and social development program approved at the end of 1992.

"As result of the political events five weeks ago, we have drifted away from the objectives we had promised the World Bank and the IMF. So we must renegotiate new time limits. We are aware that it is possible to reach our goals by the end of the year. All we are asking is for some understanding," Zapata said.

The new Banguat president is a 39 year old economist. He spent 18 years with the central bank and as a university professor at the San Carlos University School of Economic Sciences.

He began as a teller with the central bank. Later he headed the Credit Department, Agriculture Department, and Economic Studies. In January he was named by then Banguat President Lizardo Sosa Lopez to occupy the vice president position. Zapata has two masters degrees:

one in political science and the other in international economics. He is the first Banguat specialist to crown his career as bank president.

Honduras

Callejas Speaks at Forum on State Modernization 5 Jul

Holds News Conference

PA0807011793 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1405 GMT 5 Jul 93

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified local reporters at the inauguration of the Forum on State Modernization at the Honduras Maya Hotel in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Mr. President. Could you please tell us the importance of this event for the Honduran people?
[Callejas] We are very pleased to inform the presidential candidates about the progress made by the state modernization commission, to hear their opinions, plans, and proposals for the country's development. In that manner, we can introduce some changes and create conditions to enable them to continue with a transformation process the country undoubtedly needs.

[Reporter] In other words, the forum is to hear the candidates' opinions and those of the government to benefit the Honduran people?
[Callejas] The candidates will express their views. Basically, we will inform them of the progress made by the state modernization commission. This commission, created by law, and which is joined by all the groups of our society, undoubtedly will be play an important role in defining the concept of a new Honduran society, within the framework of the national dialogue.

[Reporter] Do you think we can visualize a future without the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other financial organizations?
[Callejas] No, that is not possible. No country outside the Group of Seven can live without that reality. Each nation, however, has a different approach toward the IMF. Some are signatory nations and sketch their fiscal and monetary policies based on discipline, and resort to the IMF only as a last resource. Other countries, like Honduras, for well-known reasons, have reached the limit of our capacity to create reserves or economic resources to cover our financial needs for growth so we must resort to the IMF. We must reach agreements with the IMF to obtain international financial aid and funds from friendly nations.

Our current agreements with the IMF are really mild. Basically, we must comply by maintaining fiscal discipline. No other factors affect our domestic policy. Obviously, at the beginning of our administration, IMF requirements were more precise, in the sense that we had to obtain funds to cover the fiscal deficit and pay the foreign debt. Both situations are under control, and so our short-term commitments with the IMF do not include significant actions, except for one: Basically, we must ensure that the fiscal deficit is not higher than 3.8 percent at the end of this administration, and the 1994 budget must begin with a fiscal deficit below 2 percent.

There are many ways to do this. It can be done, as the current government is doing, by sensibly increasing revenues and reducing public expenses through privatization.

The next government will have to determine how it will finance the 2 percent deficit. The next government—and we must accept this reality—will have to comply with other IMF requirements, and will have to end its term with a [words indistinct] above zero percent. We must accept that reality. As long as our country cannot be economically independent, which will take many years—even powerful nations like Mexico must act in accordance with IMF requirements to obtain capital funds for development.

[Reporter] Talking about the economy, Mr. President, the presidential candidate for the ruling National Party demanded you adopt severe specific measures against those persons [passage indistinct]
[Callejas in progress] ...large part of the liquidity, not all, of the banking system, that public expenses have been reduced. I have personally requested information. It is possible that an increase in expenses could have created the conditions for a currency devaluation. In view of the situation, we feel there is uncertainty and speculation and the government must adopt more drastic measures to control the monetary system. When conditions permit, society will make available monetary resources in foreign exchange to stabilize the currency. That is the country's most critical economic problem right now.

[Reporter] In the past you have said it is very difficult to govern by decree. Could the next government implement measures by decree to reduce inflation? You have announced you will make a statement to the media. Are you planning to govern by decree?
[Callejas] To govern by decree only provides society a temporary, not a permanent, solution. Our concern in terms of inflation is based.... [pauses] In June, inflation was 1.7 percent and almost all of it was caused by one product: beans. All of us are aware of the substantial increase in this product's price. The government.... [pauses] The farming modernization law authorizes the government to intervene in handling crisis conditions such as those involving this product to bring about a price reduction. As for the rest, we have reached an agreement with all sectors. We often have a great deal of speculation.

Not long ago, I heard the president of a farmers and cattlemen association talking about an increase in the price of milk. The price never went up, but speculation followed. The same thing happened with fuel. One

businessman said the price of fuel was going to go up. The price did not go up, however, but this sort of uncertainty and speculation about the price of a product is generated, having an impact on consumers and prompting middlemen to accept the price increase trend as real. They raise the prices not for really economic but for speculative reasons.

The government does have the power to intervene, is doing so, and will continue to do so in the case of staple products where we think we have to. The government has reached agreements on poultry, flour, butter, rice, beans, corn, and sugar for the purpose of either guaranteeing price stability or a drop in prices at the end of this administration.

[Reporter] Regarding efforts to control the inflation rate, how do you view the criticism by some private business sectors and the president of the Chamber of Commerce that this may be a demagogic measure aimed to support your party's candidate? [Callejas] I first want to reiterate that in the context of the statistics we have for June, that show an inflation rate of approximately 1.7 percent, beans constitute a basic product. I understand we are not talking about inflation in general. That is not what the government.... [pauses] We at least have the Central Bank of Honduras figures.

Gives Opening Speech

PA0807014193 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1435 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Speech by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas at the opening of the Forum on State Modernization at the Honduras Maya Hotel in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] Honorable Supreme Court president; vice president of the Congress of the Republic; presidential designate; president of the National Electoral Tribunal; former president of the Republic General Policarpo Paz Garcia; diplomatic corps members; ladies and gentlemen; and presidential candidates Carlos Roberto Reina, Olban Valladares, Orlando Iriarte, and Jose Oswaldo Ramos Soto:

For us, the members of the state modernization commission, and for me personally it gives us great satisfaction, enthusiasm, and trust in the future of Honduras to be able to have such distinguished personalities in this special presidential commission meeting. We are also pleased to have with us the citizens in whose hands the future of Honduras lies as of 27 January 1994. The commission members and I personally thank them very much for their presence. We greatly appreciate your generosity and good will in accepting our invitation to this fraternal meeting, where you will express your ideas, concerns, and perspectives on the modernization of the Honduran state.

Your concepts on this topic are basic to the progress of our dear fatherland, Honduras. The sole fact that you are attending this forum, which is of utmost importance to the future of our nation, shows that you and the citizens who identify with your respective political organizations are convinced that the Honduran state and society require deep political, economic, social, and cultural changes so that we may be able to achieve higher levels of well-being, justice, freedom, and social peace for present and future generations.

It is natural, acceptable, and logical that there are discrepancies regarding how we achieve this purpose. The fundamental thing above all, however, is that there be the firm conviction that it is essential to make continuous efforts to achieve our country's total renewal. The state modernization commission was created by law. Its fundamental purpose, however, originated when in various meetings on multiple occasions different sectors of civilian society gathered to discuss our vital social interests. We discussed, shared, and promoted actions in five fundamental areas dealing with the judicial system, education, health, and, in short, with a series of aspects related to development and citizens participation in achieving a better life.

The nation, undoubtedly, demands modernization. The changes that have occurred in the world and the speed with which they are carried out demand that our society, in a broad and pluralist debate, define objectives in those areas in which it is capable of participating in the environs of a new, transformed world. That is why, on this occasion, we view with satisfaction that you have had the goodwill to participate with us. After you explain your views, you will listen to the questions asked by the members of the state modernization commission. They are not part of the government structure so they can give you their impressions of these issues.

It is in this context that I want to tell you my government is most willing to accompany you and the Honduran people in the transition toward a new phase and new democratic level that will materialize in the elections on the last Sunday of November. At that time, as the needs of our society and the criteria of the citizens demand, each one who is entitled to vote will go to the polls to elect the new president. The challenge and commitment will not be easy, but, undoubtedly, as we act and accept the reality of participating in democracy and the decisions of the people, the country will have better options to rise above the problems that currently hurt the majority of the people.

We are fully aware of the significance of the reforms of the municipality laws in terms of popular participation, as it allows citizens to make decisions. We hope that just as we are meeting today, the municipal sectors will also have the opportunity in the future to meet with the candidates to learn their views and policies on this important aspect of our nation, namely, municipal autonomy.

Messrs. candidates, I and the members of the presidential state modernization commission feel we have a deep commitment with you for deciding to participate in this

forum. To be sure, we are most willing to help you with what you need because this commission comprises all sectors of society. We thank you for being here. We welcome you and give you our sincerest congratulations for behaving as you have, based on the loftiest sentiments of patriotism and love for Honduras. A big welcome to all of you.

Callejas Discusses Supply of Staples to Consumers, Dollar Exchange Rate

PA0807043393 Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jul 93

["Address to the Nation" by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Excerpts] Dear fellow citizens, I address you tonight to discuss two issues: First, the supply of staples to Honduran consumers, specifically beans. Second, something that affects our economy and causes uncertainty, the dollar exchange rate. [passage omitted]

The second issue I want to discuss is very worrisome: the dollar exchange rate. We have seen the price of hard currency increase considerably, and this is serious. Therefore, the Central Bank of Honduras [BCH] made a series of decisions to guarantee monetary stability and make sure the government's economic policy will continue to generate benefits for the Honduran people.

We have signed an agreement with the IMF that basically states such behavior in currency, the dollar above all, is not the result of public expenditures because some people—whose purpose is not necessarily to defend national interests—are trying to imply the government's excessive spending has caused this complex situation in Honduras' foreign exchange rate. That is not so. The agreement with the IMF is a guarantee for you, and for me, and for all Hondurans because it clearly states our fiscal policy is consistent with our efforts to achieve monetary stability to prevent inflation.

We realize—as a result of BCH investigations and actions—that the steps we have taken so far been insufficient. Therefore, the BCH Board of Directors has taken drastic actions essentially aimed at reducing the banking system's liquidity to prevent lempiras from flooding the market and exerting pressure on the foreign exchange rate. Above all, the BCH has abided by a legal principle, meaning it has proceeded to suspend and fine the first nine foreign exchange houses that were subject to investigation. It has been proved they violated the laws of the Republic and, as you and I know, this has had negative effects on the national currency. [passage omitted]

Maduro Reinstated Economic Cabinet Coordinator, Central Bank President

PA0707224293 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jul 93 p 5

[Excerpt] President Rafael Callejas has reinstated Ricardo Maduro as economic cabinet coordinator and Central Bank president, after Maduro decided not to run for deputy representing the National Party of Honduras, PNH.

Maduro's appointment was announced after Roberto Galvez Barnes resigned as Central Bank president, a position he held only for a few months.

Callejas announced his decision to appoint Maduro minister adviser at an economic cabinet meeting after it was learned that Galvez Barnes had resigned.

During an impromptu news conference held after the meeting, Maduro said he has been working with the economic cabinet for several weeks to solve several economic problems, particularly speculation affecting the foreign exchange rate.

He added that he feels his participation in the government should be more active, so on 5 July he decided to offer President Callejas his resignation as PNH candidate to dedicate his full time to the economic cabinet.

Galvez Barnes said his resignation is voluntary. He recalled that Maduro left the post months ago to comply with the Electoral Law.

He said it is only fair to reinstate Maduro in his former position "since he was the economic policy coordinator for President Callejas' government." [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Liberal Constitutionalist Party Elects National Board of Directors

PA0707012493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1930 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] The Liberal Constitutionalist Party [PLC] held a grand convention and elected its national board of directors. The convention took place in Jinotega. It began at 0900 on 3 July and ended, after 14 hours of debates, at 0100 on 4 July.

The key issues of the convention were party principles and statutes. With this convention, the PLC has demonstrated it is at the head of political organizations planning to participate in the forthcoming elections.

The board of directors was elected around midnight on 3 July. The elections were honest and clear. The results of the election follow:

President	Dr. Arnoldo Aleman, who was acclaimed.
First Vice President	Jaime Cuadra
Second Vice President	Dr. Eliseo Nunez
Third Vice President	Dr. Leopoldo Navarro
Secretary	Dr. Jose Rizzo Castellon, from Jinotega

Secretary of Organization	Jaime Bonilla, who used to be a member of the Independent Liberal Party
Secretary of Planning	Dr. Jose Antonio Alvarado
Secretary of Political Formation	Dr. Sergio Garcia Quintero
Treasurer	Lorenzo Guerrero Mora
Vice Treasurer	Dr. Luis Benavides
Sergeant at arms	Dr. Pedro Matus.

The convention also formed four important commissions made up of prominent PLC leaders from throughout Nicaragua, including Jinotegad. These commissions are: The Permanent National Convention Commission [Comision Permanente de la Convencion Nacional], the National Honor and Ethics Commission [Comision Nacional de National Honor, Etica, y Justicia], the National Supervision and Finance Commission [Comision Nacional de Vigilancia y Financiera], and the National Electoral Commission [Comision Nacional Electoral].

Cuban Charge d'Affaires Cited on Blockade, Relations With U.S.

PA0607155693 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 4 Jul 93 p 7

[Report by Edgar Barbarena; quotations marks as published]

[Text] Pedro Lovaina, Cuban charge d'affaires in Managua, said that the Castro administration's willingness to negotiate compensation claims by U.S. companies that were confiscated at the triumph of the Cuban revolution is "absolutely not a sign of weakness."

Lovaina said his country is sovereign, independent, and establishes relations and foreign policy according to factors it may take into consideration at any given moment. In addition, "the statements made by one of our Cuban ministers are within the framework of our country's policy to resolve conflicts through dialogue."

Cuban policies have consistently been explained at various international forums to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States. "The negotiations must take place without impositions or preconditions. Cuba's national sovereignty and independence must also be respected."

The Cuban diplomat met with the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee to discuss the situation in Cuba. He expressed his appreciation to the legislative branch for the recently approved National Assembly resolution condemning the U.S. blockade. When questioned by reporters, Lovaina said: "If something is to blame for the Cuban people's situation, I would say it is the blockade the United States has been imposing on us for the past 30 years."

"Considering the difficulties Cuba is experiencing due to the fall of the Socialist Bloc and the U.S. blockade, maintaining it is not only an extraordinary stupidity but also an aggression against the Cuban people and a tremendous violation of their human rights" Lovaina said.

Answering a reporter's question about whether there is going to be democracy in Cuba, the diplomat answered: "Democracy is undoubtedly the aspiration of every nation in the world, and it is also the aspiration of the Cuban people."

"We have our own democratic system that allows the Cuban population not only to express themselves through the ballot boxes by direct and secret vote in elections for national deputies and municipal and provincial authorities but also to express their opinions and to provide solutions so they can participate in solving the country's national problems," Lovaina stated.

He said that democracy in his country is not just guaranteed by a policy of social justice, health, education for all, and employment but also by the expression of its democratic institutions in the recently held elections.

Lovaina declined to say when the Cuban Government will appoint a new ambassador to Nicaragua. He did confirm to EL NUEVO DIARIO, however, that the (Cuban Government) has had no problems with the initial shipment of milk supplies collected by the people of Nicaragua.

He added that a ship is about to arrive in Nicaragua from his country to transport the remainder of the donation that is still being held in warehouses. The ship will make one trip to carry the entire donation, which is a product of the Nicaraguan people's efforts. As to whether Cuba will continue assisting Nicaragua despite the limitations it faces, Lovania replied that "we have always been ready to help the brother people of Nicaragua, within our limitations, as we have in the past. For the past two years Cuba has kept a brigade of 50 doctors in Nicaragua. That is proof of our willingness."

Panama

Linares: Renegotiation of Treaties With U.S. Will Not Benefit the Country

PA0807031093 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Jul 93 pp 56, 36

[By Justino Gonzalez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares on 6 July said that a renegotiation of the Canal treaties with the United States, to extend the presence of military bases, will not benefit the country.

Linares made this statement following legislative opinions seeking to promote a national referendum to attempt to modify clauses of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, arguing that the country's economic situation will worsen.

The foreign minister said that in the event the United States agrees to renegotiate the treaties, it will do so to obtain benefits it currently does not have and not for the sake of Panamanian interests.

Recently, legislator Leo Gonzalez of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement proposed including in the single ticket for the May 1994 general elections the option of whether the people want the U.S. Southern Command installations based on the Canal banks to remain in Panama.

The U.S. Army preparations to leave Panama caused reaction in Puerto Rico, which expressed an interest in housing such installations.

Linares clearly noted, however, that it will be up to the next government to decide if it wants to renegotiate the treaties, which establish that the U.S. soldiers must leave national territory at 1200 of 1999 [no date as published].

Linares said a statement by Roberto Troncoso, criticizing him for participating in a UN human rights meeting, is totally unfounded.

Linares asked himself "in what world is Troncoso living" when he dares to question my speech, which touched on aspects related to the self-determination of the peoples and which was included on the UN General Assembly agenda.

Spadafora Murder Trial Opens 6 Jul

PA0707163493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Jul 93 p 3a

[Excerpts] Amid distrust about the selection of alleged "antimilitary jurors," strict security measures, and determination "to learn what happened to Hugo Spadafora's head," the trial against Manuel Antonio Noriega and nine other former soldiers accused of killing the guerrilla doctor will begin at 0800 on 6 July.

Presiding Judge Luis Mario Carrasco's will first order the selection of eight jurors from a list of 1,114 names. Those eight individuals will judge Luis Cordoba, Demetrio Rodriguez, Adan Pitti, Jorge Villa, Eliecer Rivera, Agustin De Gracia, and Mario Del Cid.

Only Noriega, Francisco Gonzalez Bonilla, who is accused of decapitating Spadafora, and Julio Cesar Miranda opted to be tried by Judges Carrasco, Asuncion Castillo, and Salvador Dominguez. [passage omitted]

The court must also decide whether to admit a video from former General Noriega. In the video, Noriega attempts to implicate the CIA, the PLO, and the Libyans as possible culprits in the guerrilla doctor's murder.

A local television station has bought exclusive rights to air Noriega's one hour video.

Another key piece in Noriega's defense is reportedly the testimony of Leonor Lescure, former Panamanian charge d'affaires in Nicaragua, who presumably received from the Sandinists the personal diary that was in Spadafora's possession when he was murdered on 13 September 1985.

In 1986 the Defense Forces paid 15,000 balboas to journalist Raul Berbey to print a supplement that included the contents of that diary. Berbey disclosed that Noriega once told him that he might even win a Pulitzer prize for the publication.

Former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta, another witness being called by Noriega's defense, reiterated on 5 July that he was forced to resign as president when he tried to appoint a commission to investigate Spadafora's murder.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan Embassy has not ruled out the possibility that the Venezuelan Government could approve the extradition of Roberto Diaz Herrera, former chief of the general staff, to testify in the trial. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Electoral Code Amendment Law

PA0707031293 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA Spanish 4 Jul 93 pp d2, d3, d4

["Text" of Electoral Code Amendment Law]

[Text] Law No. (... of 1993)

"By which amendments to the Electoral Code are adopted." The Legislative Assembly hereby decrees:

Article 1. Title I of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Title I

Voting and Electoral Register

Article 2. Article 2 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 2. The following is hereby prohibited:

1. Exacting, charging, or discounting quotas or contributions from public servants and workers by authorities and employers for political purposes, even on the pretext that said payments are voluntary.

2. Any act that might impede or impair a citizen from personally obtaining, maintaining, or presenting his/her personal identity card [cedula] and other documents required for voting.

3. Directly or indirectly obliging citizens to register or resign from a political party to become eligible for government employment or to remain as such and, in the case of workers or employees, demanding their registration or resignation from a given political party to become eligible for employment, to remain as an employee, or to support any given candidate.

4. All political campaigning or advertising activities, such as the display, posting, or distribution of flyers or

posters favoring candidates or political parties at public offices, agencies, and buildings; also the use of distinctive emblems or symbols belonging to political parties and the image of candidates within public buildings.

5. The placing of political advertising material at private buildings or homes without prior authorization by the administrators or occupants.

Article 3. Article 8 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 8. Given the nature of their work, the representatives of political parties and independent candidates before the tallying boards and at the polling station boards, electoral officials, electoral supervisors and inspectors, officials of the Electoral Tribunal and Attorney General's office tasked with investigating electoral violations, and members of the Public Force or fire brigade posted to protect the polling stations may vote at the polling station board to which they are assigned or at the place where they are working at the end of the day provided they appear on the Final Electoral Register.

Article 4. Article 23 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 23. The Electoral Tribunal must prepare and publish a Preliminary Electoral Register and a Final Electoral Register for each general election. The former will show the status of voter registration six and one-half months prior to the election. The latter will show the corrections made to the former, as requested by the voters, the political parties, and the Electoral Tribunal in accordance with the purging, updating, and appeals procedures described herein. Said Final Register must be published no later than three months prior to the election date.

Article 5. Article 24 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 24. All voter registration and legal residence change requests must be suspended six and one-half months prior to the election date. The Electoral Tribunal must publish the Preliminary Electoral Register in the Electoral Tribunal Bulletin two weeks after said suspension and must distribute copies of said bulletin to the Electoral Tribunal offices in each district of the country and to mayors, council members, corregimiento representatives, and police magistrates for circulation.

Said authorities are hereby obliged to display said Electoral Register at their respective public office.

The Electoral Tribunal will use the resources at its disposal to allow all citizens to learn if they are on the Electoral Register. Furthermore, during the data updating period preceding the suspension of voter registration and legal residence change requests, the Electoral Tribunal will carry out an advertising campaign in the media. The campaign will include posters placed at various public utility and service offices, Electoral Tribunal offices, and at municipal and corregidor offices to remind voters to verify their registration on the Electoral Register.

Each legally established political party will receive up to three copies of the Electoral Register free of charge and in a timely manner. Upon request, each party that pays the set price will promptly receive additional copies and a copy on disk for computer use.

Persons who fail to register a change of residence during the registration period or who do so after the suspension of said voter registration and residence change period must vote at the table indicated on the Electoral Register based on their prior legal residence.

Article 6. Article 26 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 26. Within 30 calendar days after the publication of the Preliminary Electoral Register in the Electoral Tribunal Bulletin, the Electoral Prosecutor or any citizen or legally established political party can challenge, through summary proceedings and without the need of a lawyer, the inclusion in the register of citizens who are not residents of the respective jurisdiction, or of people who are not fully exercising their rights as citizens, or who are subject to judicial prohibition or suspension of their birth certificate.

Citizens with personal identification cards who have opportunely requested their registration or change of residence, and who for any reason do not appear correctly in the Preliminary Electoral Register, can protest the omission to the Electoral Tribunal, within the period established in this article. They will do this personally and directly, without the need of a lawyer.

Up to the expiration of those 30 days, the Electoral Tribunal will exclude from the Electoral Register the deceased individuals about whose death it receives relevant proof.

Article 7. Article 28 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 28. After all the demands or challenges have been resolved definitively, the Electoral Tribunal will update the Electoral Register, will publish its final version, and will provide three copies to the political parties, no later than three months before the date of the general elections. The legally established parties may request, at their own expense, additional copies and diskettes for use in computers.

Article 8. Article 30 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 30. The following government employees are not eligible for popular election posts if they have held the following official positions, for any time, six months before the elections, or from the date of nomination by the respective convention of the party if it was previous to those six months:

1. Ministers and deputy ministers.

2. Directors and deputy directors general of the National Police, the National Air Service, the National Maritime Service, the Judicial Technical Police, and the Institutional Protection Service.

3. Managers, deputy managers, directors and deputy directors general of autonomous and semiautonomous institutions.

4. Magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Electoral Tribunal.

5. Attorney General.

6. Comptroller and deputy comptroller general of the Republic, the magistrates of the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property, and the Accounts Overseer.

7. Magistrates and judges of the Superior Courts of Justice, Labor, Maritime, and Juvenile Law.

8. Governors of provinces; directors and deputy directors general, national directors, regional directors, and provincial directors of ministries; and national managers, regional managers, and provincial directors of autonomous and semiautonomous institutions.

9. Zone chiefs of the National Police.

10. Solicitor general and assistant prosecutor of the Republic.

11. Electoral Prosecutor of the Republic.

12. Intendants and governors of Indian territories.

13. Municipal mayors, police magistrates, and officials of the Judicial Branch, the Attorney General's Office, and Electoral Tribunal.

Article 9. No. 4 of Article 44 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 44.

4. Register as members a number of citizens, in full exercise of their political rights, comprising no less than 5 percent of the total valid votes cast in the last election for president and vice president of the Republic, in accordance with the official figures of the Electoral Tribunal.

Paragraph. This provision will become effective in 1994.

Article 10. Article 116 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 116. The political parties will be eliminated in the following cases:

1. By voluntary disbandment.

2. By merger with other parties.

3. By not having obtained a number of votes at least equal to 5 percent of the total valid votes cast in the respective election, if they participated in the elections for president or vice president of the Republic, or in the elections for legislators, or in the ones for corregimiento representatives.

4. By not participating in more than one general election for president and vice president of the Republic, for legislators, and for corregimiento representatives.

Article 11. Article 118 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 118. If a political party does not obtain, in any of the elections indicated in No. 3 of Article 116 of this code, at least 5 percent of the cast valid votes, or does not participate twice in any of them, the Electoral Tribunal, after the conclusion of the electoral process, will issue a resolution in which it will declare the party's legal status terminated, will close the file and order that it be filed and that the appropriate notation be made in the Register of Political Parties.

Article 12. Article 124 of the Electoral Code will read as follows:

Article 124. In view of the autonomy granted by Article 136 of the Constitution, the Electoral Tribunal is authorized to establish the cost of its services, and manage the funds it collects as well as funds assigned by the Executive Branch in accordance with the state's General Budget Law.

During election year, and the immediately preceding year, the Electoral Tribunal will have the following prerogatives:

1. Should the Electoral Tribunal decide there is obvious urgency preventing the call for public bids, price contest, or price request, the Tribunal can rent, lease services, or directly acquire material and equipment to carry out its work, including the functions of the Civil Registry, for example card issuance, preparation of electoral lists, as well as organizing and directing elections.

2. In order to expedite the acquisition of required goods and services, purchase orders and the corresponding payment checks for up to 50,000 balboas will be signed only by Electoral Tribunal officials. In addition, for fiscal purposes, contracts signed by the Electoral Tribunal for up to 50,000 balboas annually will not require previous approval by the Comptroller General's Office.

3. Fiscal control over its expenses and investments will be exercised after their occurrence, not to question the timeliness or advisability, but to verify the availability of budget funds.

4. The Executive Branch will handle expeditiously the transfer of budget allotments required by the Electoral Tribunal's budget.

In addition to the periods mentioned in this article, whenever previous fiscal controls are necessary, the Electoral Tribunal cannot be questioned as to the advisability or timeliness of the expenses or investments, but

on the availability of budget funds and the compliance with the applicable contract requirements.

In the area of appointments or personnel promotions, the Comptroller General's Office will promptly issue the corresponding payroll and personnel actions authorized by the Electoral Tribunal in accordance with its regulations, as long as the necessary funds are included in the budget.

Article 13. Article 125 of the Electoral Code will read as follows:

Article 125. The Electoral Tribunal will send its proposed budget for the year preceding the elections and the election year to the Executive Branch for its inclusion in the state's General Budget. During that period, previous fiscal controls by the Comptroller General's Office will be limited to verifying the availability of budget funds.

During the electoral process, the mobilization of duly identified vehicles authorized for use by the Electoral Tribunal will not be subject to controls by any government institution other than the Electoral Tribunal, during working and nonworking hours.

Article 14. Article 135 of the Electoral Code will read:

Article 135. In exercising their duties, the director and deputy director general of the Electoral Organization [Organizacion Electoral], the provincial and territorial directors of the Electoral Organization, as well as district electoral officials, cannot be detained, arrested, or processed without the Electoral Tribunal's authorization, except in cases of flagrant violations of the law.

This article will be applicable during the electoral process and the three months following the elections to candidates and to the presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and deputy secretaries general of legally registered parties. It will also be applicable to other electoral officials, representatives of political parties, and independent candidates in electoral bodies as well as electoral delegates, during the time they exercise their electoral functions and three months after the elections.

Article 15. The second paragraph of Article 159 of the Electoral Code will read:

Article 159. Only the principal members of electoral bodies designated by the Electoral Tribunal will have voting rights. The other members will have a right to be heard and verify the contents of the ballots during the vote counting.

Article 16. Article 165a is added to the Electoral Code, which will read as follows:

Article 165a. Contributions and donations in cash made by individuals natural or corporations to political parties or candidates will be income tax deductible. Each tax payer may deduct up to 10,000 balboas annually.

Article 17. Article 167 of the Electoral Code is hereby abolished.

Article 18. The second paragraph of Article 175 of the Electoral Code will read:

Article 175... [ellipses as published]

The period for presenting nominations for legislators, mayors, corregimiento representatives, and councilmen to the Electoral Tribunal will be from the opening of the electoral process until three months after the elections.

Article 19. Article 176 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 176. The elections for president, vice presidents, mayors, corregimiento representatives, and councilmen will take place on the first Sunday of May of the year in which they must be held. If the first Sunday of May is the first day of the month, the elections will be held the following Sunday.

The mayors and their alternates will be elected in all districts for a period of five years, coinciding with the presidential period. The same requirements for councilmen are to apply to these nominations.

The Electoral Tribunal will regulate the Electoral Code to ensure elections are held.

Article 20. The following shall be added to Article 176a of the Electoral Code:

Article 176a. The Executive Branch will put the Public Force at the orders of the Electoral Tribunal six days prior to the day of the elections and until the proclamation of the president is made, for the exclusive purpose of guaranteeing the freedom, honesty, and efficiency of the elections.

The Executive Branch will continue to command the Public Force in all matters relating to national defense, preservation of public order, and protection of the life, well-being, and property of nationals and foreigners under its jurisdiction, although compliance with these duties should not be an excuse to interfere in the political and partisan neutrality that said force must maintain during the electoral process.

Article 21. Article 190 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 190. At the start of the electoral process and until three months before the day of the elections, the political parties will submit their candidates for president and vice presidents.

The nominations are submitted through a document signed by the party's legal representative, containing the following:

1. First and last names of the candidates.

2. Personal identification numbers of the candidates.

3. Specific information on the candidates' residence.

4. Signature on the document; date, and place where it is filed.

Article 22. Article 191 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 191. Said document will be submitted to the Electoral Organization General Directorate [Direccion General de Organizacion Electoral] and must be accompanied by the following documentary evidence:

1. Photocopy of the personal identification numbers of the candidates.

2. Sworn statement by the candidates, demonstrating the Judicial Branch has not punished them for offenses against public administration.

3. Notarized copy of the convention or national congress statement where the candidate's nomination was approved.

4. Expressed acceptance by the nominated candidates.

Article 23. The following shall be added to Article 192a of the Electoral Code:

Article 192a. The nomination documents, accompanied by the required evidence, are to be submitted personally by the president of the organization that can make the nominations or the legal representative of the party or the persons previously authorized for that purpose by said president.

The accepting official will immediately review the request and will have a period of three working days to study it. If this period expires without a statement by the Electoral Tribunal, it will be understood that the nomination was accepted. If the Electoral Tribunal notes the request does not meet any of the legal requirements, it will return it to the interested party, outlining in a resolution the omissions in the request so that they can be resolved within an nonextendable period of five working days if the period to submit nominations has expired. This resolution can be appealed before the Electoral Tribunal magistrates within the following three working days. If the nomination document and the documents are in order, the official will issue a resolution in which this is duly registered. A copy of this resolution will be published once by the Electoral Tribunal bulletin so that the appropriate appeals can be filed.

Once the Electoral Tribunal receives the appeal mentioned in this article, it will study it's merit in a voting session, and it can gather ex officio any proof it may deem necessary and will issue a final ruling within the next 10 working days.

Article 24. Numbers 1 and 2 of Article 194 of the Electoral Code shall read as follows:

Article 194. The document is to be filed at the General, Provincial, or Regional Electoral Organization General Directorate and must be accompanied by the following documentary evidence:

1. Photocopy of the personal identification numbers of the candidates.

2. Sworn statement by the candidates demonstrating the Judicial Branch has never punished them with deprivation of freedom for offenses against public administration, nor has the Electoral Tribunal for offenses against the freedom and honesty of elections.

Article 25. Article 199 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 199. The nomination document, accompanied by the required supporting documentation, will be personally presented by the chairman of the appropriate body in order to make the nomination, or by the party's legal representative, or by the individuals previously authorized by him for that purpose.

The official will immediately review the document and will have a three-working-day period in which to issue a ruling. After this period expires without the Electoral Tribunal issuing a ruling, the nomination will be considered accepted. If the official notes that the document does not meet some legal requirements, he will return it immediately to the interested party, stating in a resolution the omissions included therein. This will permit the interested party to correct the omissions within a five-working-day period, which can not be extended, if the term for submitting nominations has expired. This resolution can be appealed before the Electoral Tribunal magistrates within the three following working days:

If the nomination document are found to be in order, the official will deliver a resolution establishing due proof of the same, a copy of which will be published only once in the Electoral Tribunal bulletin for the purposes of permitting the appropriate challenge.

After receipt of the appeal writ referred to in this article, the Electoral Tribunal will consider in a consultative session the merits of the same, being able to compile ex officio any evidence it may deem necessary. The Electoral Tribunal will issue its definitive ruling within the 10 following working days.

Article 26. Article 204 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 204. The document will be presented to the General, Provincial, or Intendancy Electoral Organization Directorate, and it should be accompanied by the following documentary evidence:

1. Photocopy of the personal identification card of the candidates.

2. Sworn statement by the candidates, establishing that they have not been convicted by the Judiciary Branch for

offenses against the state, nor by the Electoral Tribunal for offenses against the freedom and the honesty of the elections.

3. Sworn statements by the candidates, establishing that they are registered in the Electoral Registry of the district or corregimiento, whichever the case may be, since the year immediately preceding the year of the elections.

4. In the cases of nominations made by individuals, the document will be accompanied by the last and first names, signatures, identification card numbers, and places of residence of those promoting the candidacy referred to in Paragraph 2 of Article 208.

5. In the cases of nominations made by political parties, the express consent of candidates and an notarized copy of the convention records agreeing on the nomination should be included.

Article 27. Article 208 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 208. It will be necessary to fulfill the following requirements so that the nominations made by individuals for mayor, council person, and corregimiento representative can be accepted:

1. Obtain in the district or corregimiento, as the case may be, a minimum of 5 percent of followers for the candidacy, in keeping with the total number of voters who appear on the Preliminary Electoral Register in the corresponding electoral precinct.

2. A number of citizens equal, at least, to 10 percent of the followers that are necessary for a candidacy, in addition to the candidates on the document, should sign the nomination document.

Both those who sign the document and the followers must appear, as the case may be, on the Preliminary Electoral Register of the district or corregimiento.

Article 28. Article 214 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 214. The nomination document, accompanied by the required supporting documentation, will be personally presented by the chairman of the appropriate body in order to make the nomination, or by the party's legal representative, or by him or the independent candidates, or by the individuals previously authorized by him for that purpose.

The official will immediately review the document and will have a three-working-day period in which to issue a ruling.

Once this term has expired and the Electoral Tribunal has not made a pronouncement, it is understood that the nomination has been accepted. If the Electoral Tribunal notices that the nomination documents do not comply with any of the legal requirements, it will return the documents to the interested party along with a resolution indicating any omissions so that these can be resolved within five working days, should the deadline for presenting nominations already have expired. There will be no further extensions.

Within the following three working days, the interested party may present an appeal against this resolution to the Electoral Tribunal magistrates.

If the nomination documents are in order, the official will hand over a resolution to that effect, a copy of which will be published only once in the Electoral Tribunal Bulletin so that any challenges are presented.

Once a written appeal to which this article refers is received, the Electoral Tribunal will consider in a voting session the merits of the same, and will gather all the evidence it deems necessary. The Electoral Tribunal will then issue a definitive ruling within the following 10 working days.

Article 29. Article 219 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 219. All nominations for election by the people can be challenged by the Electoral Prosecutor and by any citizen or political party within the 10 working days following the date the nomination was published in the Electoral Tribunal Bulletin. This challenge must be filed in writing to the Electoral Tribunal and must be accompanied by the pertinent evidence.

Article 30. Article 222 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 222. The challenge must be presented to the provincial director of the Electoral Organization, but it may also be presented before the District Electoral Registrar so that he may send it immediately to the provincial director of the Electoral Organization who will make the initial decision.

The written challenge must include the evidence, documents, and sworn depositions, if these are available. Once this has been done, the affected party will be given five working days to present an answer and countercharges.

The respective official will make a decision in the 10 following days.

The magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal will then be informed of the appeals that have been presented against the decisions that were made.

Article 31. Article 225 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 225: A person that is running for office cannot be fired, transferred, or affected in any way from his post or employment, public or private, from the time he is nominated until three months after the electoral process concludes. The Electoral Tribunal will guarantee the implementation of this regulation. The provisions of this article will not apply when there is a case of justified dismissal that has been authorized according to the procedures established by the Labor Code in the case of

private workers, or with the prior authorization of the Electoral Tribunal in the case of public employees.

The Electoral Tribunal will keep a registration of the nominations, and it is obligated to give certification of the nominations, when these are required by private citizens or by the political parties.

Dismissal without complying with the previous requirements gives the worker a right to demand reinstatement before the Labor Courts or before the Electoral Tribunal, as the case may be, of workers protected by the Labor Code or of public employees. Reinstatement must be requested within 60 calendar days following notification of dismissal or the date in which the person stopped going to work, if there was no written notification. If the worker or public employee is reinstated, he will have a right to receive the wages that are past due.

Provisions of this article will be applied to the electoral delegates for the same period.

Article 32. Article 226 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 226. As soon as the process of nominations or challenges concludes, the Electoral Tribunal will immediately order printing the single ballots that will be used by voters for casting their votes.

Article 33. Article 227 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 227. The single ballot is the means by which voters can express their choice for the party candidates or independents, according to their preferences.

Article 34. Article 228 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 228. A single ballot will be used for each kind of election held on the date specified by Article 176 of this Code. Each ballot will include the names of all nominated candidates for office. The nominations of political parties will appear on the single ballot in the order in which they were recognized; and if there were independent candidates, they will appear next in an order determined by a drawing.

Article 35. Article 229 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 229. At the request of the candidate or the nominating party, the Electoral Tribunal could include on the single ballot, in addition to the complete names of candidates, the nickname for which they are commonly known.

Article 36. Article 230 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 230. Within three months of the promulgation of this Law, the Electoral Tribunal will regulate the size, design, and use of the single ballots, in compliance with the regulations established by this Code.

Article 37. Article 238 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 238. Bars, liquor stores, night clubs, discotheques, and other outlets where alcoholic beverages are sold, should remain closed from noon on Saturday prior to the elections to noon on the day following the elections.

Within the same period of time, the sale, distribution, transfer, use, and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be prohibited. This prohibition includes wines, beer, and other alcoholic beverages.

Article 38. Article 246 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 246. The voting will take place on a single day in a permanent session. Polls will open at 0700 and will close at 1600, but those who are in line at that hour will be allowed to cast their vote.

By decision of a majority of the voting members of the polling station board, the station may be closed before the established time, as long as all persons listed to vote at that station have voted. The voting could begin before 0700, provided it is after the hour established for the installation of the polling station board members and everything is ready for the vote.

Article 39. A paragraph added to Article 247 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 247.

The Electoral Tribunal, after consulting and agreeing with the majority of the legally registered parties, could approve the use of voting machines. In this case, the Electoral Tribunal will regulate and advise on the use of voting machines, as well as the way in which the corresponding vote counting will take place.

Article 40. Article 251 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 251. When voting, the voter will say his name aloud and will show his valid personal identification card. The polling station president, or whomever he appoints, will verify if the voter appears on the Polling Station Electoral Register or if he falls under the exceptions mentioned in Article 8. After confirming proper identification, he will give the voter the single ballots for the election.

Article 41. Article 252 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 252. After fulfilling the previous requirement, the voter will enter the isolated compartment and will select, on each single ballot, the candidates for whom he wishes to vote from within the corresponding list of candidates, and in keeping with the system approved by the Electoral Tribunal to that effect. Crossing out the name of one candidate or his alternate on the ballot will not invalidate the vote.

In these cases, the votes thus cast will be counted as valid votes for the purpose of determining the election of candidates.

Article 42. Article 253 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 253. The voter will return to the location where the members of the polling station board are located and will introduce the single ballots in the appropriate ballot boxes, when authorized to do so.

Article 43. Article 256 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 256. All voters who receive the single ballots must place them in their respective ballot box before leaving the polling station.

Article 44. Article 257 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 257. At 1600, the president of the polling station board will announce aloud that the voting is about to conclude, but the voting will continue with the people who are inside the polling station and who are in line to vote. The president shall issue orders to prevent people from getting in line after 1600.

Article 45. The following paragraph is added to Article 259 of the Electoral Code:

Article 259.

Likewise, the Electoral Tribunal is empowered to regulate the counting of the votes at the polling stations. The corresponding regulatory decree must be promulgated in the Electoral Bulletin at least six months prior to the elections.

Article 46. Article 268a is added to the Electoral Code:

Article 268a. The Electoral Tribunal is empowered to change the design of the tally sheets that must be filled in by the electoral bodies, as required by the use of the single ballot.

Article 47. No. 4 of Article 276 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 276. ...

4. If positions are still left to be filled, they will be granted to the most voted candidates, once the quotient and half quotient are applied.

For the granting of the position by residual, all the votes obtained by each candidate in all the lists in which he has been nominated will be counted. But, in any case, the seat will be assigned to the party that has provided the greatest number of votes to the candidate.

Article 48. Article 291 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 291. The declaration of nullity can be decreed by the Electoral Tribunal at the request of an affected party or candidate, formulated within five calendar days following the holding of the elections.

Article 49. Article 319 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 319. A fine of 50 to 500 balboas will be imposed on those who fraudulently register in the Electoral Census or the Electoral Register in a corregimiento different from their residence; and a 100 to 1,000 balboas fine will be imposed on those who incite others to commit this crime.

Article 50. Article 320 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 320. A prison sentence of two months to three years and suspension of citizens' right and disqualification to hold public office will be applied against those who:

1. Falsify registrations of members of a party or who obtain these through deceit.

2. Prevent the right to free registration or resignation from a political party.

3. Pay or offer payment or promise money or material objects for citizens to register or resign from a political party.

4. Alter the registrations made in the books of the political parties.

5. Falsify or alter personal identification cards or supplant the person to whom they correspond, for the purpose of electoral fraud.

6. Coerce or force government or private employees by making lists, formulating threats, or exerting pressure of any kind to attend or carry out work for candidates or parties in a specific party activity.

7. Abuse of authority or influence peddling taking advantage of a government position to benefit specific candidates or the organizations nominating them during the electoral process or preventing the free exercise of political or electoral activities carried out in accordance with this Code.

8. Illegal use of state property or government funds to benefit or harm specific candidates or political parties.

9. Violation of prohibitions mentioned in points 1, 3, and 4 of Article 2 of this Code.

10. Dismissing or transferring a person running for a government position or deteriorating in any way his working conditions in a public or private institution, from the time of his nomination until three months after the conclusion of the electoral period.

11. Not complying with the order to reinstate an employee issued by the Electoral Tribunal in accordance with Article 225 of this Code.

Article 51. Article 321 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 321. A fine of 50,000 balboas, the suspension of citizen rights, and inability to hold public functions for a period of one to three years will be imposed on citizens for:

1. Using someone else's identity, sign a registration document or authenticating false registrations with the intention of fraudulently registering a candidate.

2. Registering as a supporter of a nomination without having the right to do so in exchange for money or material compensation, or as a supporter of more than one candidate or more than once for the same candidate or party in the process of formation during the same registration period.

3. Altering registrations in the books of candidate supporters.

4. Rashly promoting challenges.

Article 52. Article 332 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 332. During the electoral process, the director and deputy directors general, directors of electoral provinces and Electoral Organization districts, the president of the National Vote-Counting Board, presidents of the electoral precinct, district, and community vote-counting boards, presidents of the polling station boards and electoral delegates can order the arrest of individuals for up to two days for disobedience and disrespect. Exclusions to this rule are mentioned in Article 135.

The offender shall be able to request, from the corresponding police official, the commutation of the arrest at a rate of 10 balboas for each day.

Article 53. Article 351 of the Electoral Code will read:

Article 351. In electoral proceedings, no fees will be charged, except in the following cases:

1. When the procedure takes place without the plaintiff appearing, after having been personally notified.

2. When the loser has denied evident facts with regard to the suit which, as may be proved by the proceedings, he should have admitted while responding to questions.

3. When the party presents forged documents or false witnesses.

4. When no evidence is presented to prove the facts stated in the suit or the alleged incidents, except in cases dealing with strictly legal points.

5. When there evidently is abusive, malicious, or negligent exercise of the right to legal action.

6. When the time for filing the suit is deemed to have expired.

The resolution that establishes a penalty in the form of a fine or payment of the costs of the proceeding has, for that instance, executive standing and may be referred to the appropriate regular courts, depending on the amount involved.

Article 54. The second Section of the Seventh Chapter of the VIIIth [Roman numeral] Title of the Electoral Code is to read as follows:

Second Section. [subhead]

Summary Proceeding [subhead]

Article 55. Article 413 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 413. If an appeal is filed in a timely manner, and if the law does not establish the special procedure to be followed, it will not be necessary to be substantiated, and the official will accept it and order it forwarded to the next higher authority.

Article 56. Article 439 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 439. Any controversy attributed to the Electoral Tribunal magistrates, will be handled through a summary proceeding, except in cases in which another procedure is ordered by means of a special norm. Any reference to a common trial in this Code is to be understood as a summary proceeding.

Article 57. Article 440 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 440. Once the period to respond to a suit has expired, the substantiating official will set the date and time the legal representatives of the sides are to appear at a hearing in order to:

1. Establish the facts that generate the controversy and must be proven.

2. Introduce evidence.

3. Hear arguments by each side.

4. Act on any other affair that may further expedite the hearing.

5. Make it possible for a decision to be reached during the proceedings.

It is the trial judge's duty to examine, prior to the hearing, all the procedural evidence contained in the case file.

Article 58. Article 442 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 442. In electoral processes, the Electoral Prosecutor and those affected will be notified of the case. Also, the notice of claim will be published in at least one daily newspaper for three consecutive days and will also be published in the Electoral Tribunal Bulletin. Anyone affected by the claim may form part of the case within three working days following the last newspaper publication.

The date of the hearing will not be set until the term period this article covers has expired.

When contesting electoral processes dealing with the nomination and proclamation of candidates, no intervention by third parties is required; therefore, no publications are needed to notify third parties, such as this article establishes for other cases.

Article 59. Article 443 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 443. The proof and evidence will be presented in the claim brief, or in the reply, or in the briefs presented after the notification and up to two days prior to the hearing.

The testimonial evidence may be presented as previously stated, but if the attorneys of the parties intend for the Electoral Tribunal to summon witnesses, it shall do so in writing, up to five working days prior to the hearing, specifying the exact residence or office address. This is independent of any effort made by the interested party to have the witnesses appear at the hearing.

Article 60. Article 446 of the Electoral Code shall read:

The hearing will take place even if none of the parties show up and the official will reach a decision with the elements provided in the case file, unless he decides to call for evidence.

Article 61. Add the following to Article 451 of the Electoral Code:

Article 451a. The hearings the Electoral Tribunal holds will be recorded and minutes will be drafted to be signed only by the trial judge and the ad hoc secretary appointed by the trial judge and who had taken part in the hearing.

The tape recordings are to be filed with the case file as an integral part of it.

Article 62. Add Article 451a to the Electoral Code as follows:

Article 451a. The act will include:

1. A proceedings identification and the time when audiences begin and end.

2. The full name of the trial judge and of the ad hoc secretary appointed by the trial judge.

3. The full name of the electoral prosecutor or that of whomever may have acted on his behalf.

4. The full name of the attorneys of the parties.

5. The evidence presented at audiences.

6. The full name and personal identification cards of witnesses and experts having participated in audiences.

7. A summary of the positions adopted by the parties throughout the phases of the audience.

After the act is signed by the trial judge and the ad hoc secretary, an edict will be issued to make the act available to the parties for 24 hours at the secretariat so that the parties may file written remarks on the act.

Article 63. Section 4 of Chapter 7 of Text [Titulo] VIII of the Electoral Code shall read:

Section 4a.

Special recourses for nullifying elections and proclamations.

Article 64. Article 455 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 455. The recourses for nullifying elections and proclamations will be presented to the Electoral Tribunal according to established terms, even if these terms have not been announced previously. The written note will include the facts and the grounds backing the note and will add and refer to pertinent evidence.

Article 65. Article 479 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 479. The summary must be perfected within two months following its initiation but this deadline can be extended for another two months when a case involves several accused or several infractions.

Once the summary is concluded with basis on these terms, the Electoral Prosecutor's Office will send it with its recommendations to the Electoral Tribunal.

After evaluating the summary, the trial judge can decree, on one occasion only, that the summary be expanded. The judge must clearly point out the points that must be expanded. The expansion work cannot take more than two months from the moment the Electoral Prosecutor's Office receives the file.

After the Electoral Tribunal receives information that proves that a punishable action has been committed and establishes who committed this action and who participated in it, the trial judge will determine if the summary is complete; if it is not, he can order actions leading to the perfecting of the summary.

Article 66. Article 487 of the Electoral Code shall read:

Article 487. The allowances to which Electoral Tribunal magistrates will be entitled for travelling expenses in or out of the country will not be inferior to that awarded to Supreme Court of Justice magistrates. These allowances and trips will not require the approval of the Comptroller General's Office or any other state organization as long as the Electoral Tribunal's budget permits them.

Article 67 (Temporary). In view that this law annuls, modifies, substitutes, and adds new articles to the Electoral Code and that still many articles remain unaltered, the Electoral Tribunal is authorized to prepare a systematic ordering of the electoral law that will contain the dispositions that were not reformed as well as the new dispositions approved by this law to form a single text. The articles will be numbered in sequence within the books, chapters, and sections, whose single text will be published in the Official Gazette.

The Electoral Tribunal will order the printing of the new text of the Electoral Code.

Article 68. This law modifies Articles 2, 8, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 44, 116, 118, 124, 125, 135, 159, 175, 176, 190, 191, 194, 199, 204, 208, 214, 219, 222, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 238, 246, 251, 252, 253, 256, 257, 276, 291, 319, 320, 321, 332, 351, 413, 439, 440, 443, 446, 455, 479, 487, the designations of Title I and those of Section

2a and Section 4a of Chapter Seven of Title VIII of the Electoral Code. This law adds a paragraph to Article 247, to Articles 165, 176a, 192a, and to Articles 259, 268a, 451a, and 451b of the Electoral Code; annuls Articles 7, 9, 25, 27, 29, 167, 197, 198, 200, 201, 202, 209, 210, 213, 215, 216, 217, 220, 231, 243, 322, 323, 325, and 331; Section 3a of Chapter Seven of Title VIII of the Electoral Code—which contains articles 452, 453, and 454—Articles 456 and 459 of the Electoral Code; and any other legal disposition contrary to it.

Article 69. This law will go into effect once it is promulgated.

Let this be announced and published:

[Issued] Panama City, [no date as published] June 1993.

[Signed] Lucas R. Zarak, president.

Ruben Arosemena Valdes, secretary general.

Colombian Defense Minister Arrives, Notes Border Security

PA0807011693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Panamanian and Colombian authorities will increase security measures along the common border in the jungle region in which the guerrillas and drug traffickers operate, Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda has announced. Pardo confirmed that Colombian police will cooperate in the training of Panamanian police officers, in keeping with an agreement by both countries to increase surveillance in that region.

The Colombian defense minister was greeted at Paitilla Airport by Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier. Pardo Rueda said that during a meeting of the Colombian-Panamanian committee it was determined that we can engage in exchanging information related to security and to a police academy in Panama. A diplomatic source close to the meeting said that, in view of Colombian experience in police purges, the possibility is not dismissed that the new defense minister may have brought the new law with him so Panamanian authorities can study it.

Panama and Colombia are trying to make their common border more secure, Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda stated. He said that the missionaries kidnapped in Darien are alive and are being held by a Colombian subversive group.

[Begin Pardo recording] We were going to agree to hold a new coordination meeting with Colombian and Panamanian authorities on 23, 24, and 25 July in Turbo in the Colombian Uraba region to establish the work and coordination agenda on border security topics. We want the common border to be secure for both countries. We do not want the established geographical limits on either side of the border to be used by criminal groups. This requires coordination between the authorities of both countries, so that the border can be more secure, which is the wish of the nationals of both countries.

[Unidentified reporter] What about joint police patrols?

[Pardo] The police on both sides of the border will engage in coordination activities. They will exchange information, communications, and plan activities that can be carried out at the level of the Public Force of each country. We plan to open positions for persons wishing to aspire to officer rank and to attend training courses for members of the Panamanian police in the Colombian Police Academy. I think we are just in time to wage a joint effort, to establish common objectives and procedures that will make the border region a secure zone and prevent its use for the transit of persons or illegal substances. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Reaffirms Determination To Maintain Stable Economy

PY0707221893 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Jul 93 p 5

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem yesterday reaffirmed his government's determination to maintain a stable economy and emphasized that "there is no pressure that can be brought to bear that will force me to devalue the peso." Menem upheld that "nobody can erase at a pen stroke" his achievements in the economic area, pointing out that "the days of easy money are over."

Menem spoke at opening of the IV Argentine Bankers Meeting which has been organized by the Abra [Argentine Banking Association] domestic bankers association.

"Stability is irrenounceable; our countrymen shouldn't worry if we are living an intensely political moment right now, there is no possibility of making clumsy and cheap demagoguery with the stability that we have achieved, we are on the road of no return," the President said. [passage omitted]

Before Menem took the stand, Central Bank President Roque Fernandez gave a speech during which he said that the Central Bank aims for "a transparent economy" and pointed out that deregulation will take place "in those areas where it is strictly necessary."

The head of Abra, Julio Gomez, said that the current economic plan had the full support of bankers and called for a "continuity" of the "formidable transformation that the country has undergone in such a short time."

Menem Addresses Armed Forces Annual Camaraderie Dinner

PY0707163393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem tonight demanded from the Armed Forces their continued "wholehearted and firm support in political decisions to achieve national objectives."

Moreover, Menem admitted that the recent cut in the military institutions budget "meant sacrifice, economic hardship, distress, and frustration," but he assured them that their contribution "is essential to the nation."

President Menem, who is also Armed Forces commander in chief, addressed the annual Armed Forces camaraderie dinner at the Palermo Rural Association.

Menem opened by praising "the herculean efforts by the Armed Forces in support of the rebirth of this new Argentina, an Argentina in which everyone does his share."

Menem paid tribute to the Armed Forces members who "gave their lives in defense of the nation's territorial integrity," and "to those who shed their blood, the blood of Argentines, to recover our unredeemed Malvinas Islands."

He added: "It is necessary for all citizens to understand the unselfish spirit the Armed Forces have displayed throughout time."

Menem asserted that the Armed Forces institutions, "despite all the restrictions, today standout due to the same determination that all Argentines are showing in their jobs, their families, and their daily activities in support of today's thriving Argentina."

He stated: "The Armed Forces can help achieve a great nation on the basis of the concept of an integrated state, by granting their wholehearted and firm support for political decisions that will help to achieve national objectives."

Menem said: "All Argentines are responsible for shaping Argentine history."

Menem asked Armed Forces members "to strengthen us with their will so that we do not despair when faced with the difficulties with which destiny challenges us."

He asserted: "Let us forge history. Let us not be mere observers of events. We have this opportunity here and now. All national sectors should unite to achieve this objective."

Menem said that the Armed Forces "did not hesitate in understanding this situation and, from their specific areas, restructuring their grassroots to be attuned with the rest of the community."

The president added: "I am well aware that this meant sacrifice, economic hardship, distress, and frustration, but I am also aware that this contribution is essential to the nation."

Menem asked the Armed Forces "to maintain this same spirit, to redouble their efforts because the future cannot be built on a weak foundation. It demands strong character, fair decisions, dedication, and perseverance."

The president reasserted "the Armed Forces forces commitment in upholding Argentine foreign policy regarding the United Nations, implementing them with the same professionalism like any civilized country."

He said: "I have asked myself many times, to what do Armed Forces members aspire in life. I believe it is not hard to establish: They seek incentives to develop their talents, order, discipline, loyalty, humility, organization, justice, and peace."

Menem said that a soldier "wants good opportunities so that he will not fail; encouragement for the sacrifices he has to make, and security to allow him to be coherent in his actions."

Menem closed his speech by stating: "Hope is the spiritual pillar of humanity. Beyond any negative circumstance, there will always be a force born from an individual's deepest sense of survival. It is this force that compels us to believe in the future."

Secretary Generals of 74 Unions Offer Approval to Government Policies

PY0707222193 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Jul 93 p 11

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—The secretary generals of 74 progovernment labor unions yesterday offered their approval of government policies and agreed to participate in the Justicialist Party's electoral campaign and back President Carlos Menem's reelection effort during a three-hour lunch at the presidential residence in Olivos.

The unionists, led by ultra-Menemists Andres Rodriguez (UPCN [National Civil Service Personnel Union] civil servants union) and Jose Pedraza (UF [National Railway Union] railway workers union), were officially invited by Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz after they let it be known that they "wanted to give Menem explicit banking for his administration." At the table Menem was flanked by Beliz, Labour Minister Enrique Rodriguez and Presidency Chief of Staff Eduardo Bauza as he asked the unionists to do their utmost to help win the 3 October congressional elections. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Criticizes Navy Chief Over Bonus

PY0707220293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1209 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo charged that Admiral Jorge Ferrer, the Navy chief of staff, made the government sign a decree that has generated a debt to retired military men "ranging from $500 million to 600 million."

"When Ferrer talked to President Carlos Menem, Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, and me to grant a Residence Instability bonus, he should have brought a resolution from the national Treasury's auditor general stating that the decision was illegal," he said, referring to the fact that the bonus also should be paid to retired officers.

Cavallo emphasized that the decree signed by him, Menem, and Camilion "has embarked the government on a debt ranging from $500 million to $600 million owed to retired military men," who now are demanding payment of the bonus.

"Ferrer should have told us before and not when the retired military men began to sue the government for several million," Cavallo complained.

According to the regulations, retired military men's allowances should be equal to the salaries paid to on-duty personnel, but the Residence Instability bonus has invalidated the rules, producing a cataract of lawsuits against the state.

Camilion had said: "If those lawsuits are processed, their outcome will surely be against the government, according to the Supreme Court's jurisprudence."

In statements made during the "New Time" program last night, the minister denied that there are plans to consider military retirement as part of the retirement system, explaining that the funds for retired workers "should pass through ANSES (National Social Security Administration), as is stated in the national budget, in order to make it quite clear that those funds are for paying pensions and not for military expenses."

The controversy was caused by the fact that the Defense Ministry insisted that the Treasury should deposit the funds for paying military retirement allowances in the Financial Aid Institute (military retirement fund), contrary to what has been done since February, when the Finance Ministry started managing funds.

Motives Behind U.S. Missile Attack on Iraq Viewed

PY0707191193 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jul 93 p 8

[Editorial: On the Lookout for Baghdad]

[Text] There is no consensus at the international level about the real motives that prompted the White House to launch a missile attack on Iraq's intelligence service facilities. There has been no unanimous support for the action like that that followed the Gulf war after Saddam Husayn's troops occupied Kuwait. The official explanation behind the unexpected offensive by the United States has not satisfied neither Turkey, as the United States' main ally in the region; the Russian Federation; Gorbachev; Iraqi expatriates; nor the press, which has long contended that in view of Baghdad's well-known hegemonic intentions it is necessary to keep a weather eye open. This generalized reluctance to readily bow to the justification by the U.S. Government for its attack does not mean, however, that the united front presented by those who two years ago supported the U.S. air and naval expedition sent with the backing of the UN Security Council has crumbled.

The same fate met the contention that this attack was ordered by President Clinton in a bid to boost his waning popularity. This is a flimsy and scarcely defensible argument. This interpretation of world opinion, which only blames Washington for its lack of timeliness and its hastiness, is consistent with the fact that the mythical figure of Saddam Husayn, which is only feasible in a country where public opinion is nonexistent and where any signs of a normal political activity based on a system of freedoms that would enable people to exert their right

to dissent are conspicuous by their absence, has emerged unscathed from the U.S. missile attack.

There is no reason to take for granted as a demonstrable truth that the retaliation answered an alleged attempt on former President Bush's life last April. The tyrant of Baghdad might have been bent on indulging in such a plot, but to orchestrate a scheme of such proportions that would have sparked imaginably serious consequences—well, there is many a slip 'twixt cup and lip. Anyway, even if the missile attack was launched for that reason, the lapse of two months between the reported attempt and the bellicose retaliation against that attempt invalidates this argument.

Yet, there are, in our opinion, other reasons which might explain what is seemingly inexplicable or unaccountable. The explanation lies somewhere else, at another level, which is somehow difficult to quantify. We refer to the spread of the Islamic movement worldwide—there are 900 million Muslims which, together with the 1.1 billion Chinese, account for 40 percent of the world population—and to the worrying aspirations to which fundamentalism has been evincing of late, especially in the United States where networks of religious fanatics discovered by the CIA and other intelligence agencies corroborate the idea of a worldwide conspiracy. Notwithstanding this, just because these fanatics have been exposed and even arrested does not mean that "everything is under control." Iran throws its lot with an undisputed enemy like Iraq in a war that is not waged at present on the battlefield. It would be advisable to scan this horizon to try to fathom out reasons worthy of consideration for the firing of 23 missiles, which constitute—although it may seem unreal—a most serious warning.

Di Tella Cited on Falklands, '10 Tigers of the World'

PY0707135593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2242 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella today told Congress that "never for one second" did the government consider transforming the Falda del Carmen industrial plant into a dangerous waste store. Di Tella said Argentina was "one of the 10 tigers in the world" and admitted "a complex and conflicting" situation with Great Britain following the UK decision to extend their jurisdiction to 200 miles around the Malvinas Islands.

Di Tella questioned the "British decision which violates the umbrella on the islands' sovereignty" and announced: "If current negotiations end negatively we will protest over the violation to the Antarctic Treaty."

The foreign minister told the Chamber of Deputies committee that "Argentina is one of the 10 tigers in the world" due to its economic growth, adding that Argentina, Chile, and Mexico "are the three Latin American tigers."

Di Tella did not react to the ironic remark by Radical Civic Union [UCR] Deputy Juan Pablo Baylac who said that "this tiger is losing its teeth." Di Tella added: "If Korea is called the Asian tiger, Argentina is the Latin American tiger" and gave economic figures comparing Argentina with other countries in the world as a way to prove his assertions.

The foreign minister emphatically denied that the government had ever thought of transforming Cordoba's Falda del Carmen plant into a dangerous waste store. He thus commented on the transformation of the plant following the dismantling of the Condor-2 project.

"Our government never for a second thought about that possibility and I am here to rule it out entirely," di Tella said.

The minister talked before the plenum of the Defense and Foreign Relations Committees. Di Tella strongly defended the government's foreign policies in view of opposition attacks, particularly from UCR legislators Conrado Storani Jr. and Carlos Raimundi.

Di Tella said that the reports available at the Defense Ministry do not show "for the time being" that Argentine soldiers were executed during the Malvinas conflict. He insisted, however, that a "thorough investigation" should be carried out.

The foreign minister called on legislators to follow up the investigation being conducted by Scotland Yard without ruling out Argentine steps to clarify the execution reports.

Another topic was the presence of Argentine troops in areas of conflict at the request of the United Nations, a decision that was strongly defended by di Tella.

The foreign minister said he supports the creation of a training center for UN troops or "blue helmets" in Argentine territory but refused to say if the proposal would be sent to Congress for ratification.

Justicialist legislators Miguel Angel Toma said Congress approved the sending of Argentine troops abroad, arguing that the measure "did not seek economic benefit from the corpses of victims but sought to help preserve peace."

Asked about negotiations with the UK over the Malvinas Islands, di Tella explained that they are "being carried out between governments, without the intervention of the Kelpers."

"We refuse to accept their right to participate in the decision making process but we accept their wishes and concerns," the foreign minister said.

Di Tella said: "We refused to embark on a policy of suffocation and isolation of the islands because that would create more cohesion among the islanders and Great Britain, like that which followed the military occupation of the islands."

Di Tella stated that the unilateral UK decision to extend their jurisdiction to 200 miles has created a "complex and conflicting" situation.

The minister said: "This decision affects fishing activities. If present negotiations end negatively we will protest over the violation to the Antarctic Treaty."

Regarding the Malvinas issue, di Tella said: "We are not going backwards."

"There has been progress. We have protested over the UK violation of the umbrella on the islands' sovereignty," the minister concluded.

Chilean Defense Minister Arrives on Official Visit

PY0707215093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1651 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (NA)—Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas Saavedra, who arrived today in Argentina for a four-day official visit, labeled bilateral relations as "exceptional."

Upon arriving in the military section of Metropolitan Airport, Rojas Saavedra said he is bringing "a cordial and affectionate greeting" from the Chilean Government, Armed Forces, and people.

In conversations with the media, Rojas denied that Chilean Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet demanded an "amnesty law" for the benefit of military men accused of human rights violations.

Rojas indicated, however, that talks are being held "to find a way to speed up the pending trials affecting on-duty and retired soldiers."

He said the objective is "to find legislative procedures and changes to achieve a prompt pacification." He added that there are about 800 pending cases.

Minister Rojas was welcomed at the airport by his Argentine counterpart, Oscar Camilion; Chilean Ambassador Edmundo Vargas Carreno, Joint Staff Chief General Mario Candido Diaz; and the commanders of the Armed Forces' three branches.

Minister Rojas came with a delegation made up of Naval Commander Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch; the National Defense General Staff chief, Vice Admiral Jorge Patricio Arancibia Reyes; and Military Institutes Commander General Ricardo Izurieta Cafarrena.

Camilion, Chile's Rojas Ratify Compliance With Chemical Weapons Treaty

PY0807021993 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Chilean and Argentine defense ministers ratified the total compliance of the treaty that proscribes chemical weapons. Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas reiterated here in Buenos Aires the statements he already made in Chile saying that Chile is totally separated from any activity related to chemical weapons. Argentine Defense Minister Oscar Camilion expressed his government's total trust in Chile's compliance with the Tlatelolco Treaty signed in 1991:

[Begin Camilion recording] The Defense Ministry is not worried in the least about this subject. We are convinced of Chile's compliance with an international commitment, which is the chemical weapons proscription treaty, and a regional trilateral agreement, which is the Mendoza Declaration. Besides, a country with Chile's tradition will never produce weapons of mass destruction, just as Argentina also would never do it. These weapons are banished from this part of the world. [end recording]

The Argentine defense minister said the deal to purchase 36 A-4M Skyhawk fighter-bombers has not been closed yet, although it wishes to do so. This purchase, Camilion said, seeks to partly compensate for Argentine war materiel lost during the Malvinas War. He also said that a balance in the field of defense will be maintained with Chile:

[Begin Camilion recording] It is the objective of our two governments, of our two diplomacies, our governments, and of the defense ministries to maintain, in the conventional weapons field, a situation of reasonable balance. [end recording]

Oscar Camilion also explained to the Chilean media about the imminent retirement of the current Argentine Air Force commander. Although the Argentine tradition is that the Armed Forces' commanders remain in their posts for only three years, Brigadier General Antonio Julia has been in his post an extra year because of his good relations with President Carlos Menem.

Minister Camilion declined to comment on the absence of Chilean Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet from the official retinue accompanying Minister Rojas.

Brazil

Summit Security Plan Noted; Plan To Assassinate Cuba's Castro Denied

PY0707205693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0549 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by Edgar Hernandez]

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 7 Jul (EFE)—Salvador will adopt strict security measures during the meeting of chiefs of state and governments of Ibero-American countries that will be held here next week. These measures will be similar to those adopted in Rio de Janeiro during the 1992 world summit on the environment.

Federal Police and municipal authorities are maintaining absolute silence on the measures that will be implemented to safeguard the security of the presidents, measures they have been preparing for six months.

The streets of Salvador, some of which still are being repaired, are occasionally used by fast automobiles escorted by motorcycles, faking the movement of official vehicles that will transport the government leaders.

For the days when the presidents will stay in Salvador, the City Council has ordered the closing of several streets to be used by the official delegations, and, in practice, vehicular traffic will be paralyzed in an important section of the Bahia capital.

The streets that will be off-limits to private vehicles are those leading to the airport, the Bahia Convention Center, hotels where the Ibero-American presidents will stay on the Salvador sea coast, and the downtown area for the visit they will make to the historical area of Salvador.

Military police have trained several dozen men to accompany the illustrious visitors, and, according to a military police source, the smallest details have been considered to prevent any possible event that might endanger the dignitaries' security.

A Brazilian Government spokesman told EFE that police have not detected any possible attack on a government leader and denied a reported plan to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro, as reported by some journalistic sources.

However, Federal Police reported that so far eight people who intended to enter Brazil for the conference were detained at airports for not having very clear judicial records and with the purpose of preventing the smallest possibility of an unpleasant incident.

Police Director Joel Almeida said the men with the best experience in this type of work have been transferred from other cities to gather the most effective and qualified team possible.

Almeida said: "We still are working at airports and ports to detect any abnormality or suspicious element."

He also noted the installation of special computers connected to Interpol, with the basic data to be consulted in case of the arrest of a suspect during those days.

Among the policemen who will participate in the protection plan are sharpshooters, expert[illegible] bomb searches, and others specialized in closely following the presidents.

Control of possible demonstrations by radical groups that might like to take the opportunity to attract attention also has been foreseen.

But although some measures have been revealed, most of the security plan remains secret, and, according to Brazilian Foreign Ministry officials, not even the political authorities are aware of how they will be developed.

Government Said To Want To Stop Foreign Participation in Bid for Telebras

PY0707160393 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jul 93 Section 1 p 9

[Article by Elvira Lobato]

[Text] The Federal Government wants to recreate the market reserve in telecommunications for nationally manufactured products and stop foreign participation in the bid for Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] System which was started in 1990 by the Collor government. The Communications Ministry submitted the proposal to the market at the end of May through Resolution 647 and unleashed a fierce war.

The sector split in two. On one side are those which already produce equipment in Brazil and which will benefit from the measure; they include Ericsson, NEC, Equitel, and Alcatel. On the other side are those which entered the market since 1990 in association with foreign companies but which do not yet manufacture products in the country. They include Sid Telecon (Sharp group), Splice of Brasil, Telemulti, and Promon Eletronica. In dispute is a market worth $1.5 billion per annum; the equipment purchased by the 29 state companies of the Telebras System.

The resolution, which is signed by Communications Minister Hugo Napoleao, proposes the acquisition of foreign products only when those manufactured in the country do not fulfill the price, quality, or financial conditions compatible with the international market, or if there are no similar national products. The proposal has created great controversy within Abinee [Brazilian Electro-Electronic Industry Association] and has provoked protests from the U.S. State Department.

The return of the market reserve has been discussed at meetings within Abinee since February but so far there has been no consensus. In view of this impasse, the companies decided to make the controversy public. The main point of attrition is the lack of time to prepare for the implementation of such a measure. The industries which purchased foreign technology want to continue to import for at least another year, or until they begin to manufacture. The other side does not accept this reasoning.

The telecommunications market was closed from 1978 to 1990. With the opening of the market and the competition of foreign products, prices dropped. According to Sid Telecon President Antonio Rego Gil, the price of telephones dropped from $900 to $300 per installation. The manufacturers say that the drop is partly due to technological development, but the main reason is competition.

The U.S. State Department criticized the Telecommunications Ministry resolution when nine Brazilian deputies of the Congressional Science and Technology Commission visited the United States last month. Deputy Maluly

Neto (PFL-SP) [Liberal Front Party - Sao Paulo], a member of the committee, said Americans are ill-informed because they thought the resolution had already been implemented.

The deadline defined by the Communications Ministry for any public statements on the matter expired on 15 June, but the government extended it for another 60 days in view of the conflict in the industrial area. No consensus has been reached in Congress. According to Deputy Irma Pasoni (PT-SP) [Workers Party - Sao Paulo], the Technology Commission will reconsider the situation in August, after the congressional recess. "They are just pretending to be working on it," she said.

Telebras still defends the resolution. Telebras President Adyr Silva told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO through his adviser that he proposed the resolution to avoid the use of "black boxes" in its systems. The government also wants to lead the companies to invest in the Tropic project, the telephone exchanges developed by Telebras. Since the companies that are licensed to manufacture Tropic telephone exchanges are also associated with foreign companies like Splice, Sid, and Telemulti, Telebras fears that they will push the national project onto the back burner.

Abinee President Nelson Freire said that the resolution does not prevent new technologies, provided the foreign manufacturer produces in Brazil. He added that the opening of the market was done "irresponsibly" because the government did not negotiate similar measures with other countries. "We do not want an oligopoly, but we defend national industries and we will defend employment," he said.

The Abinee president said he has not yet made a final decision on the matter and there is still great internal discussion. He said that the institution will adopt a position as soon as it obtains a consensus among its associates.

Poll Shows Cardoso More Popular Than Itamar

PY0207165893

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese on 1 July, page 7, carries an 800-word unattributed article on the results of a nationwide poll by the Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute, IBOPE, between 18 and 23 June involving 2,000 people reveals that 56 percent have confidence in Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso while only 53 percent believe in President Itamar Franco. Some 40 percent have no confidence in Itamar and 24 percent have no confidence in Cardoso.

Some 31 percent are optimistic about the future of the country under Cardoso's guidelines, 26 percent said they were indifferent, 19 percent were pessimistic, 6 percent were very pessimistic, 4 percent were very optimistic, and 14 percent did not know.

Although most people do not believe changes are for the better, 52 percent approve the way Itamar is governing the country while 36 do not. The remaining 12 percent said they did not know.

Up to now 49 percent believe Itamar's government is fairly good, 19 percent believe it is good, 14 percent believe it is very bad, 5 percent believe it is optimum, and 9 percent believe it is poor.

The poll shows that 66 percent believe Itamar is honest and 71 percent that he is devoted to his job. Only 15 percent believe he is dishonest and 16 percent believe he is not devoted to his work.

The poll also indicates the people's choice for candidates to the presidency: 59 percent favor Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho while 68 percent reject Orestes Quercia, 38 percent reject Luis Inacio da Silva, Lula, and 43 percent reject Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf.

Ecuador

Police Capture Alleged Drug-Trafficking Leader

PA0707145793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] National Police captured Jorge Medranda Chavez, a well-known Manabi businessman allegedly linked to drug trafficking, early on 4 July. Medranda Chavez was found in a house on the Manta-Jipijapa road in Manabi Province.

Elite narcotics units conducted Operation Coast in March, which led to the dismantlement of a vast network of Ecuadoran, Colombian, Peruvian, and Israeli traffickers. Investigations conducted at that time pointed to Medranda Chavez as one leader in the organization.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Promulgates Law To Implement Council for Magistrates

PY0707183493 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Jul 93 p 20

[Excerpts] President Andres Rodriguez yesterday promulgated a controversial law to implement the Council for Magistrates, an organization created under the new Constitution. This council will be charged with selecting three candidates for each position within the judicial branch for the term that will start on 15 August. The opposition, which has strongly objected to the law, announced that it will propose amendments to it in the new Congress.

The Council for Magistrates will consist of seven [as published] members, who will serve on the Council for three years. Each member will be entitled to the same immunity accorded to justices of the Supreme Court and

to salaries equivalent to those of congressmen. They cannot be disqualified by any interested party. [passage omitted]

The council will comprise one justice of the Supreme Court, one representative of the executive branch, one senator, one deputy, two licensed attorneys (who must be elected by their colleagues in a direct election), one professor of the Law Faculty of the National University elected by his colleagues, and one professor of private law faculties.

One objection to the law by the opposition is that it allows the executive branch to have the final word on the appointment of judges.

Article 28 of the new law provides that "if the executive branch lends its agreement to or makes no objection to the appointment within 10 days, the Senate will appoint the selected candidates. Without having to substantiate its objection, the executive branch may convey to the Senate that it does not agree to any specific appointment. In this case, the selection process will start all over again until the names of all candidates have been considered. The executive branch must approve the name of the final candidate."

A new mechanism for selecting judges will go into effect upon the installation of the Council for Magistrates, which will be charged with submitting to the Senate the names of three candidates for each justice of the Supreme Court and for each member of the Superior Electoral Court.

The council will also be charged with submitting to the Supreme Court the names of three candidates for each member of appellate courts, lower courts, prosecutors, and state attorneys. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Visits Cuzco With South Korean Ambassador

PA0607145493 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori accompanied South Korean Ambassador Ki-sung Cho on a 4 July visit to Cuzco. Fujimori was told about the progress made by the Korean enterprise Daewoo in expanding Velasco Astete Airport. The president also visited schools that will be remodeled with donations received recently from Japan. Fujimori made these comments to reporters at the end of the visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Some have been said that there have been changes in the Armed Forces Joint Command and the Defense Ministry.

[Fujimori] That is completely false, completely false. As I have said, I support General Nicolas Hermoza. Not only do I support him, I congratulate him for the extraordinary work he is doing. His work is not limite to the military. It includes a general strategy for commu nity development.

[Reporter] According to [words indistinct] at the con gressional level?

[Fujimori] It has been proposed at the congressiona level to eliminate regional governments that do not serv any purpose, that are just small regional corruptio centers. A Lima central government-type corruption ha been transferred to 11 regions. We want to decentraliz administrative decisions and resource utilization, but w want to do it more efficiently. Some time ago I said tha 90 percent of the funds should be used on public project and 10 percent on administrative expenditures, as we ar doing here. [end recording]

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Arrives, Arranges Duran-Ballen Visit

PA0807040193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes, wh is visiting Lima, went to the government palace where h met with President Alberto Fujimori. Paredes arrived a the government palace accompanied by Oscar de l Puente Raygada, his Peruvian counterpart.

Diego Paredes, accompanied by Gustavo Ruales, Ecua doran ambassador to Peru, arrived at the governmen palace at 1000 to pay a protocol visit to Presiden Fujimori. The Ecuadoran foreign minister and the Peru vian president met for 40 minutes to discuss problem related to both countries, especially the conduct of th Ecuadoran military, who denounced the violation of th gentlemen's agreement existing between the two coun tries, and other bilateral topics.

[Begin De la Puente recording] It is a working meetin not an official one. We are scheduled to meet at th Foreign Ministry now so that both working groups ca meet to prepare the agenda for the visit by Ecuadora President Sixto Duran-Ballen to Lima late this year. It scheduled to take place around the end of November o early December. We will have to make compromises t agree on a definitive date. [end recording]

A meeting was held later at the Foreign Ministry, wher Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen's visit wa scheduled for the first week of December. This date wi be confirmed after both presidents meet at the Iber American Summit, scheduled to be held in Brazil ne week.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] During this visit we ar arranging President Duran-Ballen's visit to Peru. We ar discussing our relationship with a very clear and fran desire to broach all topics and to bring the two countrie positions closer together.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, has it been confirmed exactly when President Sixto Duran-Ballen will be arriving in Peru?

[De la Puente] No. We do not have a firm date yet, but the Ecuadoran Government wants the visit to take place in 1993. [end recording]

Hermoza Distributes Weapons to Defense Patrols

PA0407195693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Army Commander General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, on tour in northern Peru, on 2 July distributed weapons to members of two peasant defense patrols in (Callejon de Huaires).

The 300 peasant defense patrol members in (Huamarin) and Santa Cruz swore allegiance to the country. The ceremony was held on the esplanade of the (Captain Juan Joyle Palacios) Garrison, headquarters of the 6th Infantry Battalion in Huaraz Province.

[Begin Hermoza recording] We distributed weapons to two peasant defense patrols in Huaraz. They are the first two peasant patrols to receive weapons in the 1st Military Region in northern Peru. In Huaraz, 18 more peasant defense patrols are in the process of being trained. [end recording]

The peasants will receive 300 breech-loading rifles and 30,000 cartridges to protect themselves from subversives.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Has the number of subversives dropped in the past few years?

[Unidentified peasant] They no longer exist [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Rumors about the presence in the area of Shining Path leader Julio Cesar Mezzich circulated throughout the valley in the past few days.

[Begin recording, regional commander General Ismael Cornejo] It is not known if he is dead or alive. He has not been seen. Rumors are going around, but no one has actually seen him. [end recording]

After the ceremony Gen. Hermoza, accompanied by National Police Director General Victor Alva Plasencia, traveled to Tumbes, where he presided over a command unit graduation ceremony. About 50 officers participated in this ceremony in which the black beret was reinstated as an Army command symbol.

New Comptroller General Sworn In

PY0807023193

[Editorial Report] Lima EL COMERCIO reports in Spanish on 29 June on page 1 that Victor Enrique Caso Lay was sworn in on 28 June as new comptroller general of the Republic.

Uruguay

Reaction to U.S. Missile Attack Against Iraq Noted

PY0707214893 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 1 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] The reaction of Uruguayan political and diplomatic circles to the missile attack U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered on 26 June against Iraqi military installations, which resulted in the death of six Baghdad civilians, has ranged from cautious distance to open rejection.

The government did not officially pronounce itself and it is not expected that it will do so. Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, who traveled to the United States on 29 June, talked to his Chilean colleague, Enrique Silva (Rio Group pro tempore secretary), about the Rio Group eventually issuing a joint declaration in this regard. There also is no possibility for the Rio Group to pronounce itself because member countries do not share a unified stance in this regard.

Notwithstanding, before departing for the United States, Abreu told BUSQUEDA that although Uruguay condemns state terrorism or terrorist actions perpetrated by individuals, the Uruguayan Government is "reticent to accept the position that this action constituted an enforcement of Article 51 of the UN Charter."

Through this article, countries are allowed to allege legitimate defense in responding to foreign aggression. The United States said it has "irrefutable" evidence that Iraqi intelligence plotted an attack in April against former U.S. President George Bush during his stay in Kuwait and that this justified an attack in compliance with Article 51 of the UN charter.

Foreign Minister Abreu stated that the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry "is studying this issue objectively" and "on the basis of those international rights and regulations that rule the international community, particularly those included in the UN Charter."

The foreign minister added: "There are doubts about the enforcement of Article 51 in this case. There seems to be no exact correlation between the action undertaken by the United States and the charges of the Iraqi plot, particularly because of the long time that has elapsed."

On 29 June, the Colorado Party newspaper EL DIA questioned the U.S. attack. In an editorial, EL DIA stated: "Even if Bush's life was in danger, no one can accept that the frustrated attack against a single person constituted a specific threat to the United States, although it certainly undermined its image."

EL DIA stated: "Clinton's solution is mediocre because it makes a martyr out of Saddam Husayn; it makes U.S. Arab and Muslim allies, particularly Egypt and Pakistan, uncomfortable; and it gives leeway to anti-democratic

Third World movements. In addition and above everything else, it is defenseless."

EL DIA believes that this is "extremely serious" because "if the reinforcement of these defunct 19th century practices are to remain unmentioned, the so-called 'new international order' is nothing more than the installation of a hegemonic power beyond the rights, duties, and obligations of other nations."

On 30 June, the newspaper EL PAIS said that "far from tolerating Iraq's master, we have some reservations about the unilateral use of force without previously consulting" the United Nations.

It adds: "This is a position that would not have been followed by Clinton's predecessors. In view of this, the good judgment and statesmanship of the White House's current resident is subject to doubt."

On 27 June, in its editorial the newspaper LA REPUBLICA discussed the subject and warned: "Vengeance has never been the plausible objective of any government or statesman." LA REPUBLICA stated that the United States has the "moral duty" to use its technology "for more humanitarian purposes than mere vengeance."

According to LA REPUBLICA, this mere duty "in this case has been ignored for political reasons, one of which is President Clinton's low popularity."

Moreover, the newspaper "THE ECONOMIC OBSERVER" stated on 30 June: "The enforcement of the famous Article 51 seems completely absurd because of the disproportion between the defensive (...) action and the aggression." Moreover, it asserts that "the time elapsed between the frustrated attack and the American response leads people to believe that other alternatives may have been considered."

On 28 June, the Socialist Party (PS) executive board condemned the U.S. "surprise" attack on Baghdad. The PS said the attack "violates international rights and can only be described as state terrorism that will only result in increased tensions and the death of innocent citizens."

According to the PS: "This attack constitutes a serious precedent that undermines the sovereignty of small countries and must be condemned by the international community."

Moreover, the Uruguayan Trade Union Action (ASU), a branch of the International Labor Confederation [Confederacion Mundial del Trabajo], stated that the U.S. bombing "is a mere expression of the unilateral military power paraded by the United States, which has assumed the role of world policeman."

Results of Poll by 'Social Researchers' Noted

PY0807011693

[Editorial Report] Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish on 1 July carries on pages 14 and 15 an 800-word unattributed article on the results of a poll the weekly ordered from an unidentified group of "social researchers." The poll was made in Montevideo at the end of May and the beginning of June. The poll shows that at the beginning of June, 29.2 percent of the Montevideo population would have preferred to vote for the Broad Front, 22.7 percent for the Colorado Party, 7.2 percent for the National Party, and 4.7 percent for the New Sector Party, while 25.6 percent were undecided. Colorado Party leader Julio Maria Sanguinetti was the individual leader with the highest preference rate: 20 percent followed by Tabare Vazquez, with 13.2 percent. The poll showed that 7.7 percent approved of President Luis Alberto Lacalle's work, while 73.1 percent disapproved. The work by Montevideo Mayor Tabare Vazquez, however, was approved of by 42.6 percent of those polled, while 34.4 percent disapproved. As for the work by Congress, 46.9 of those polled disapproved of it, and only 14 percent approved.

Venezuela

President Velasquez Gives Independence Day Speech

PA0507233993 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1311 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Speech by President Ramon Jose Velasquez on occasion of Independence Day at the National Congress in Caracas—live]

[Text] President and Vice President of the Congress of the Republic; President and Vice President of the Supreme Court of Justice; His Eminence Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrun, archbishop of Caracas; President of the Judiciary Council; former presidents of the Republic; former presidents of the government junta; ministers of the Executive Cabinet; Federal District Governor; Comptroller General of the Republic; Attorney General of the Republic; Most Excellent and Reverend Monsignor Nuncio of His Holiness and dean of the diplomatic corps; most excellent ambassadors, honorable charge d'affaires of friendly countries and representatives of international organizations; senators and deputies of the Congress of the Republic; officers, generals, and admirals of the military High Command; mayors, presidents, and directors of national academies; rectors of national universities; presidents of autonomous institutes and state-owned enterprises; media representatives; and ladies and gentlemen:

Today is a propitious day to reflect on Venezuela and its future because this day was an stellar moment in our history. It is the day we assumed the responsibility to be independent and free, and to become citizens. The people took to the streets on 19 April 1810. It was a year later on 5 July 1811, with the birth of the Republic, that people started to be the protagonists of their own fate. They opened new paths and created gradually—amid obstacles and uncertainties and against all odds—a country of exceptional conditions and characteristics.

The face of the country, which was basically rural until then, started to change in the 1920's. We began to exploit oil and stopped being the country of destitution and civil wars. Venezuela started to join the great national [as heard] hydrocarbons market. That was this century's unexpected development. We were not prepared to control and manage it. Venezuela was still under a dictatorship that continued into a good part of the current century.

Seventy years later, Venezuela is a modern country; modern not only because of its social and economic structures but also by its inclination and nature. We are a country that understood and adapted to great contemporary changes; we are, at the same time, a democratic society with the rights and duties demanded by and inherent to it.

Being a free country is an unrenounceable responsibility. The freer we are the more will we be able to control our actions, decisions, and behavior as members of a society, whose base must be the spirit of solidarity. Our democratic system might have innumerable defects but let us not fool ourselves, because defects are not abstract things; society is what each and everyone of us want to make it.

We undeniably have advanced in the consolidation of the democratic regime. Eloquent evidence of this consolidation of Venezuelan democracy are recent developments that concluded with my election by the Congress of the Republic on 5 June as president of the Republic, the position to which Mr. Carlos Andres Perez was elected to in the December 1988 elections for the 1989-94 constitutional period.

The initial actions by the prosecutor general that were followed by—in keeping with the constitutional order—the successive participation of the Supreme Court of Justice and Senate of the Republic, and the willingness of the president of the Republic to respect the decisions of the Supreme Court and Senate led to my election. I wish to underscore the characteristics of a process of such historic magnitude that was unprecedented in Venezuelan history.

I want to point out the historic attitude of the protagonists of this process. Once again, the national Armed Forces showed an exemplary attitude of respect for democratic institutions and all sectors of society maintained a calm and watchful presence. The process we experienced is an unmistakable sign of the authenticity and strength of Venezuelan democracy. This consolidation of democracy as a national way of life has brought about an unstoppable modification of the traditional framework in the structure of public power. The development of events, which due to circumstances, has accelerated changes and forced constant partial modifications in the established orders. This situation must find a definitive solution in the next constitutional presidential term through a comprehensive reform of the Constitution.

The conjunction of historic circumstances that have been pointed out throughout the national debate has reduced the traditional dimensions of public power. The progressive loss of capacity to deal with the conflicts created by the country's growth has also affected the traditional authority of the state.

The new economic, social, and cultural reality of regions; the conflicts among the sectors involved in the nation's economic development; the growing essential demands of civilian society; the increase in poverty; and the loss of the capacity to conceal, reduce, or resolve problems through the easy means of National Treasury expenditures explain in part an unprecedented situation that has been accumulating for years, imposing a burden on the present and the immediate future.

From the viewpoint of the political system, the crisis in our democracy lies basically in the conflicts faced by the model of a centralized state with parties, which was consolidated in the 1960's. At this time, the state must decentralize its functions and give way to a more participative democracy. The changes that have been taking place are directed toward that goal. That is the reason civilian society now is participating permanently in our political process. That is why the electoral reforms that have been undertaken seek to establish a direct vote to modify democratic representation. That is why the demand for the decentralization of power is heard everywhere in the country.

We are at the conclusion of a political era. We are on the brink of seeing the dawn of a new phase of our republican life. During its brief mandate, the administration I head has to oversee the development of these changes. The policy of decentralization of the Venezuelan state falls within this context. It began with the election of governors and mayors in 1989. This constitutes the most important event in Venezuelan political history in the 20th century, after the recognition of universal, direct, and secret vote as a means of electing public officials. I believe in decentralization as an instrument to improve democracy.

That is why I have defined as a priority policy of this short transition government the advancement of the process of transferring government powers to the states and the strengthening of the new centers of power that begin to consolidate there.

In addition, I have appointed a minister of state to expedite the decentralization process so that government decisions are adopted during this short period. This will give way to an irreversible decentralization process.

We have, however, always warned that the final success of this decentralization process lies basically in the fact that the irregularities, complicity, and corruption—which have caused so much material, moral, and historical damage to national power—be abolished and not be repeated under any circumstances.

Venezuela is experiencing a difficult social situation at this time. The progress made by the country for decades, especially after 1958, in such important areas for the welfare of the population as education, health, housing, and food has ceased and in some cases has deteriorated. The economic crisis has been partly responsible for this situation. What is even worse is that the cost of this crisis has been unequally distributed among Venezuelans.

If in fact sustained economic growth has been registered in the last few years, other statistical indicators and several studies reveal how, in a short period of time, a significant drop in family income has been produced, together with the reduction in availability of foodstuffs; deterioration in such basic services as education, health, and social security; increased violence; and in general an expansion of poverty that threatens the quality of life of Venezuelans.

In the face of this reality, the government has implemented over the last few years a series of important actions, which are in many cases innovative, that have contributed to alleviating the effects of poverty. The food bonuses for school children, day care centers, the PAMI [expansion unknown], the small enterprises, and the nutritional enrichment of food are some of the programs which—with the cooperation of society, businessmen, community, civic, religious, and neighborhood organizations—have been developed in the fields of education, health, and social security.

These efforts have played a significant role and it is necessary to continue to expand them. But we all know that these are temporary solutions. It is required that we improve the level of wages; develop a more active policy to face inflation, especially regarding some basic products for low-income sectors such as basic foodstuffs and medicine; and reverse the deterioration trend in rendering education and health services. This could be done through a great effort displayed by the public sector.

We have stated that our government will give priority to social concerns. Naturally, a problem such as poverty cannot be resolved by a decree, nor can it be solved in the short period left for this administration. However, we must avoid the continued deterioration of the standards of living of Venezuelans and we must lay the foundations so that the next constitutional government can face this situation under better conditions.

The social problem is not the problem of one sector alone. It is a problem of the state, it is a responsibility of not only the public sector but of society as a whole, particularly the richest and most influential persons. In this area, more than any other, the stability and political ability to get things done is being played.

In the social area, I must highlight the active presence of the Catholic Church, which is always willing to seek solutions and implement them. It maintains permanent contact with the least protected sectors of society.

Another factor I wish to mention is the growing influence of social organizations—the civilian society—in the Venezuela of 1993. The reorganization of the state, the progressive reduction of the fiscal resources from petroleum, and the collapse of a subsidized society model gave rise to the social organizations.

The crisis of public services; the shortage of water, electricity, and sewage systems; the problems of a lack of security in neighborhoods and residential areas; and the collapse of hospitals have led citizens to form organizations that demand attention be paid to their basic problems and also encourage solutions. The society that at one time merely issued demands that were granted by a paternalistic leadership is today still demanding, but it is also fighting, cooperating, and practicing social solidarity.

Undoubtedly the economic limitations for meeting demands have created unbalances, anguish, and instability. Thousands of conflicts over shortages have taken place in neighborhoods. The community organizations fill the needs and contribute to redefining the functions of the political parties, which now better fulfill the collective aspirations of the organizations.

The media have also acquired tremendous strength and importance. Never before did they have complete independence to criticize, and this means another step on the path toward acquiring the media that will modernize and improve the culture of our people. The time of the protected society is over. This has provoked creative energy in the neighborhoods, towns, residential areas, and we have begun to feel its positive effect.

The government I preside over is developing its own agenda with the urgency demanded by events. It is studying what can be done to strengthen national unity. We will strive for maintaining this criteria of balance and reflection to prevent the distortion of our term of transition. This is a government that will promote an atmosphere of trust and that will seek to guarantee economic and social progress, political coexistence, and the successful completion of the December elections.

At the same time that we seek to contribute in the short period of this term to achieving stabilized public finances, we must focus our efforts toward those reforms that will convert economic growth into increased well-being for all Venezuelans. In order for this growth to be positive, the productive sectors must have financial resources that will allow them to obtain new investments for their expansion.

The recovery of the country is more and more in the hands of the workers and entrepreneurs who must set aside any differences and contradictions in order to understand that this crisis can be solved only through their productive efforts and alliance. The needs that arise in a growing economy are very diverse. There is a need for equity at the level of distribution of revenue. The

government must promote social justice and an agreement with the factors of production in the belief that we—the state, enterprises, and workers—are united in the fate of the country.

For years the goal has been the simultaneous achievement of a solvent state, an enterprising and prosperous private sector, equitable salaries, and the attainment of new levels of culture and social progress.

From the moment I was sworn in as president of the Republic, for the short time remaining of the current constitutional period, I have said the country is experiencing an especially difficult situation. The policy to be followed in light of this difficult situation could be summed up in three [number as heard] objectives: to pinpoint the economic and social needs aimed at saving the country a deterioration of its economic variables and all its consequences on the people. It is not a matter of inventing formulas, for which there is no time or justification due to the urgency and brevity of the responsibilities entrusted to me.

I realize there is a need to implement great reforms immediately. With the same good faith and respect, however, I invite you to meditate calmly on the viability, under the current circumstances, of an objective of that nature, which should be the responsibility of the government to be elected in five months.

There is almost a consensus of opinion demanding that we act firmly against inflation and the uncontrolled public expenses that are causing it. There are also demands for government action to prevent a serious deterioration of the productive sector, with special emphasis on the agricultural, industrial, commercial, and financial sectors. The problems in those areas must be thoroughly resolved, or at least minimized; they cannot be handled with long- winded ideas, vast plans to be implemented slowly, or promises we are unable to keep, at least immediately.

I have decided to take a path that may lack grandiosity, but I believe it is the most appropriate to give Venezuelans the tranquillity they need by preventing a deterioration of the situation in an area that is most important: the people's well-being.

I already said that these three general objectives demand specific urgent measures. I have asked my associates to act on problems with no delay, such as the continuity of educational activities, which will not be paralyzed by budget limitations, the increase in common crime, and criminal speculation in the price of staples. As you can see, the main task of this short, but dramatic six-month period is based on our internal realities.

Article 190, Clause 8 of our national Constitution grants the president the authority to dictate special economic and financial measures for the public interest and when such an action has been authorized by a special law. Undoubtedly, the current situation in Venezuela falls within the scope of that constitutional provision. The serious fiscal deficit the country is facing may be the most significant problem. Quick actions are necessary to eliminate it, in order to prevent its negative effects on the population's economic and social conditions, as the accumulation of such factors would endanger public administration, basic social programs, and productive investments.

Selected projects....[pauses] to be included in the bill will result from broad consultation....[pauses] resulted from broad consultations, without major questioning from any sector. Through that law we will try to incorporate new sources of regular fiscal revenues, we will try to eliminate bureaucratic administrative procedures, reinforce decentralization, and promote privatization under favorable conditions for the nation.

In the past few years the national budget has been financed with extraordinary resources produced by treasury bills. This, however, has only eased a fiscal deficit whose growth could get out of hand. Should this continue, the negative consequences for the economy and the living standard of Venezuelans would be incalculable. Thus, I call very respectfully for a reflection on this threat and urge determination and courage.

The Special Powers Law provides means to act without dangerous delays. It is also true it shifts the main responsibility to the Executive Branch and especially to me as the president.

The permanent deterioration of public finances leads the national government to a state of insolvency, which could frustrate achievements in the areas of political stability and citizen tranquility. The people must be told why public expenditures have grown out of hand; they must know why this cannot be tackled through the acquisition of short-term debts.

Venezuelan families need to know the restoration of a balanced relationship between regular government revenues and authorized expenditures is decisive to prevent the price of mass consumption products from increasing on a daily basis; to ensure the bolivar does continue to devaluate; to ensure excessively high loan interests do not continue to paralyze production activities, especially those of small- and medium-size business; and to ensure quick solutions with low-interest, timely, and accessible financing to the agricultural sector.

These are no longer the exclusive affairs of intellectual elites or require specialized languages. They are problems that interest all Venezuelans. We would be on our way to overcoming the most perverse aspects of inflation if we managed to close the fiscal gap.

The Congress of the Republic is working hard and responsibly to give Venezuela legal instruments on specific dates. This cannot be postponed. Partial delegation in economic and financial matters required....[pauses] that require urgent decisions within the framework of the Special Powers Law in no way undermines the power of

the Legislative Branch. It will allow the discussion of matters that will be delegated to the government without procedural delays.

This is a reflection of the collaboration between state branches, which is also a mandate of the Constitution. The mechanism of the Special Powers Law was included in our Constitution for emergency periods. The drafters of the Constitution did not hesitate to include this form of legislative delegation, which is also a part of many countries' Constitutions. They did this specifically thinking of situations, such as the one facing our nation; a complex and difficult situation, in the opinion of an immense majority.

The urgency of solving the fiscal deficit to free it from the siege of inflation and ward off the danger of what is often called hyperinflation is essential if we want to prevent a string of unprecedented deprivations, at least during the last seven or eight decades of our history. [sentence as heard]

The specific details of the current fiscal and budget situation, and the 1993 external financing program will be included in a report to the nation that will be revealed on the occasion of the presentation by the finance minister of the Special Powers Bill before the National Congress.

Following a tradition established since the inception of the democratic regime, Venezuela places utmost importance on the fulfillment of its international commitments and deems its relations with friendly nations to be a top priority matter. This sustained Venezuelan presence in the international community has never been interrupted by government changes, because this attitude is in keeping with a policy of Venezuelan democracy that is stronger than internal political problems. Our relations with our neighbors Colombia, Brazil, Guyana, and the Caribbean are specially important for geographical reasons.

I have expounded on why I think any important initiative regarding our border negotiations with Colombia should be left for the next government. This, however, does not imply a paralysis in permanent meetings to discuss problems pertaining to economic integration and border life between these two friendly and fraternal peoples. Our long-standing relationship with the United States continues to be framed by the reaffirmation of democratic values of the two peoples and by the sustained role of that country in our economic and cultural development. Reciprocal cooperation and the need to confront jointly and mutually the significant transformations the world economy is experiencing has bequeathed a new validity to the integration efforts by the Latin American countries.

What is being done regarding economic integration is of primary importance. Never has Latin American integration been as significant as in these last few years. Venezuela has an unavoidable commitment with the integration process. It could not be any other way. The concept of integration, with democracy and modernization, is an integral part of the aspirations of all Venezuelans. In this context, Venezuela's participation in the Andean Group reaffirms our clear and decisive spirit of integration. The Andean Group is a tangible reality. A free trade region in full development with common customs tariffs will be in effect beginning 1 January 1994. In addition, the economic opening with Colombia is also a good example of how integration between two countries must proceed. Likewise, the agreements with Chile, the understandings with Central America and the Caribbean, and the Group of Three negotiations are also evidence that Venezuela is practicing a new policy that is more synchronized with our development strategy, which is directed toward accomplishing a greater and more favorable participation of our country in the national economy.

In five months time we will have new public powers, a new president, a new Congress, and a new National Assembly. In fact, the new electoral term has already begun since the presidential candidacy configuration is practically decided. This situation imprints special features on the government I now preside over. To ignore these features would be the start of unnecessary risks and controversies that we plan to avoid at any costs. The presidential candidates will present their programs before the country and express their conception of Venezuela and the country's future. This is the essential part. As president of the Republic, I will endeavor to maintain regular, open, and honest contacts with the presidential candidates. For the first time, a government with special attributes will preside over an electoral process. We are all committed to work to ensure the election process, as well as its results, will express the real consensus and sovereign will of all Venezuelans. Several parties and numerous groups of voters will compete in December for votes. The adequate organization of this event is the responsibility of the Supreme Electoral Council, and I have no doubt whatsoever that their performance will be efficient.

Insofar as the country's problems are complex and diverse, we must also understand the national expectations regarding the quality of the political debate. The country demands clarity, transparency, and honesty. Venezuela has different options and it is the country that will select these options. Never has an election campaign demanded more from the nation as the economic and social conflicts that now constitute elements of growing inequalities will continue to more weigh heavily. Furthermore, the solutions to these problems will not emerge from individual actions by the new public powers, but from a new national agreement which, by discarding all sectorial selfishness, all Venezuelans will finally understand that we need the conjunction of wills as a mandate of history and the future.

A new stage of our history begins on 3 February 1994. At the end of five years of the next term, we will have concluded this stage or will be on the verge of doing so. Another president will salute the 21st century. How and

in behalf of what country he can do so will depend undoubtedly, not only on the achievements of the next administration, but on the active support given to the administration by the people.

That is why it is necessary that we consider the significance and importance of the decision of December 1993. It is imperative that the political, social, economic, and cultural achievements of the 20th century continue. Venezuela cannot go backward. The country that was the principal actor in the endeavor of independence and later overcame and left behind the plights of misery, civil war, and illiteracy; the country that eliminated the tyrannical and regional governments to consolidate democracy as a way of political and social coexistence has reached a moment of its history in which it has a challenge: to consider the bases of a new national agreement.

A national agreement is indispensable to be able to resolve the factors of the crisis that threatens what we have accomplished in so many battles. It is indispensable so future governments can earn solid national support, in addition to their parliamentary majorities. It is indispensable so Venezuelans will be able to know whom we will accompany on a long new journey and where we are headed. It must be an agreement different than that of 1958, which facilitated the establishment of the modern democratic system. This agreement must be made up of the actors and forces that make up the real framework of the country today.

To achieve this agreement is a slow, difficult task, filled with conflicts and misunderstandings. It is the task, however, of prominent national leaders, supported by a society that realizes its power and which demands changes instead of rhetoric.

Our experience now is based on the setbacks of the system. There exists in Venezuela, however, an awareness of the crisis, its causes, and solutions, a guide heretofore unavailable to the country. This review and analysis of conscience will lead to the fundamental definition of a new historic moment, wherein each citizen, region, or organization will know the costs and benefits of the historic change. A national agreement is the path that will permit Venezuela to march onward and resolve its problems. Throughout our history, this positive and courageous attitude of foresight has been the path to overcome conflicts and open new eras of progress. Thank you.

Group Provokes Incident During Independence Day Parade

PA0607193193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1751 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Caracas, 6 Jul (NOTIMEX)— Presumed coupists of the Venezuelan 5 July Movement staged an incident during a military parade attended by President Ramon Velasquez by hurling an "inert hand grenade" [granada "inerte"], thereby provoking a wide deployment of security forces, it was reported on 6 July.

Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radams Munoz confirmed on 6 July that security forces detected two "suspicious persons" near the presidential platform during the Independence Day parade in Caracas on 5 July.

The minister said that when the two were noticed they fled after hurling an "inert hand grenade" (inactive) at the security forces. The presumed rebels took advantage of the confusion and escaped through the multitudinous crowd.

"The idea was to disrupt the military parade, create anxiety, and use the opportunity as gratuitous propaganda for that obsolete movement," Munoz said at Miraflores Palace.

Munoz did not clarify if the incident, which coincidentally occurred on the date for which the movement is named, was intended to injure Velasquez, who will complete suspended President Carlos Andres Perez' term.

Munoz said supporters of the 5 July Movement, which headed the foiled 27 November coup d'etat—the second in 1992—have staged demonstrations and political activities during the past few weeks without having any significant effects.

After requesting discretion about the incident, Munoz said the rebels, who in his opinion are a minority, "are trying to manipulate the press and maintain an obsolete movement."

He noted that there are no reports on active military men linked to the February or November 1992 coups, although they do have supporters among civilian groups. [passage omitted]

Students Clash With Police During Demonstration in Los Teques

PA0707231893 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Los Teques, Venezuela, 7 Jul (AFP)—Dozens of students clashed with the police on 7 July during a demonstration to protest the arrest of a fellow student in Los Teques near Caracas, radio stations and witnesses have reported. The youths burned tires and blocked access to several avenues in Los Teques, causing the police to break them up with tear gas bombs.

The students were protesting the arrest of a fellow student, who was accused of attacking a youth last week, during a demonstration demanding respect for reduced bus rates for students. There were no reports of injuries or arrests.

The student protests, which became very intense last year, waned one and a half months ago, when Social

Democratic President Carlos Andres Perez, who is accused of embezzlement, was suspended from his post.

Social Christian Deputy Defends Campaign Financing

PA0807021693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Nelson Chity La Roche, president of the Chamber of Deputies Finance Committee, has reported that the Social Christian Party [Copei] has no objection to an eventual investigation of the origin of the funds that it is dedicating to Osvaldo Alvarez Paz's election campaign.

As he sees it, this party's sources of income are clear. It receives economic aid from various sectors and everything is very clear. He noted that drug trafficking makes its way into the country because there are problems in the public finance sector. In his opinion, as long as there is no information about who is becoming wealthy, this will continue.

[Begin Chity La Roche recording] It worries me to find that Freddy Munoz [leader of Movement Toward Socialism] is so frivolous as to say that he can imagine the dubious origin of the funds for this campaign. We should be serious. Some people still think that whenever there is a bank robbery it is to finance the leftist parties. I don't engage in these kinds of stories because they are not serious and because the Venezuelan people don't deserve to be told silly and stupid things by a secretary general of a political party. [end recording]

Deputy Chity referred to his congressional candidacy. He said that Copei has not treated all politicians equally but that he is prepared to accept a nomination from Miranda State.

Defense Minister: Officers in Peru May Return If They So Desire

PA0707123793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon left Miraflores Palace a few moments ago. On his way out, he said that the officers who have been in Peru since the 27 November events may return to Venezuela if they so desire. Munoz said the Defense Ministry is processing the necessary documents for the officers to legally return to Venezuela.

[Begin Munoz recording] We are officially making all the administrative arrangements to get the necessary visas and passports. On 6 July I instructed the Air Force commander to contact the officers and invite them to return. I am not bringing them back. I cannot bring them back. If they want to return they must do so voluntarily. I will offer all the necessary facilities. I will send them air fare or an airplane if necessary and give them an opportunity to legalize their situation.

As you may recall, there were approximately 90 officers, and about 40 of them returned. Virtually all of them have been reinstated or released. This is a good opportunity for them to legalize their situation and establish their level of responsibility. [end recording]